Church, business elite ask poor's forgiveness

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2001 ★ 86 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 153 ₱15

Survey: 8 PPC bets solidly in Magic 13

EIGHT senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition now appear to have a firm hold on a Senate seat, according to the GMA-Pulse Asia survey conducted from May 4 to May 7.

Four other PPC bets now have a statistical chance of making it to the "magic circle" of 13 elected senators.

Eight Puwersa ng Masa aspirants are also

SURVEY/ A20

WITH THIS ISSUE

All about élan

- Mother's Day Gifts
- 2 Moms
- Timeless Piña
- Metro Veil

Iloilo bet slain; poll death toll now 51

Mayor surrenders; 6 wounded in Marinduque

BY RAJ PADILLA, MA. DIOSA LABISTE AND NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A mayoralty candidate of San Joaquin town in southern Iloilo was shot dead at dawn yesterday allegedly by his rival, the incumbent mayor, at the victim's campaign headquarters.

Jesus Sibya, 52, died of bullet wounds in the head and groin at 6:55 a.m. at the Iloilo St. Paul's Hospital, about 50 kilometers from the town, two hours after he was shot.

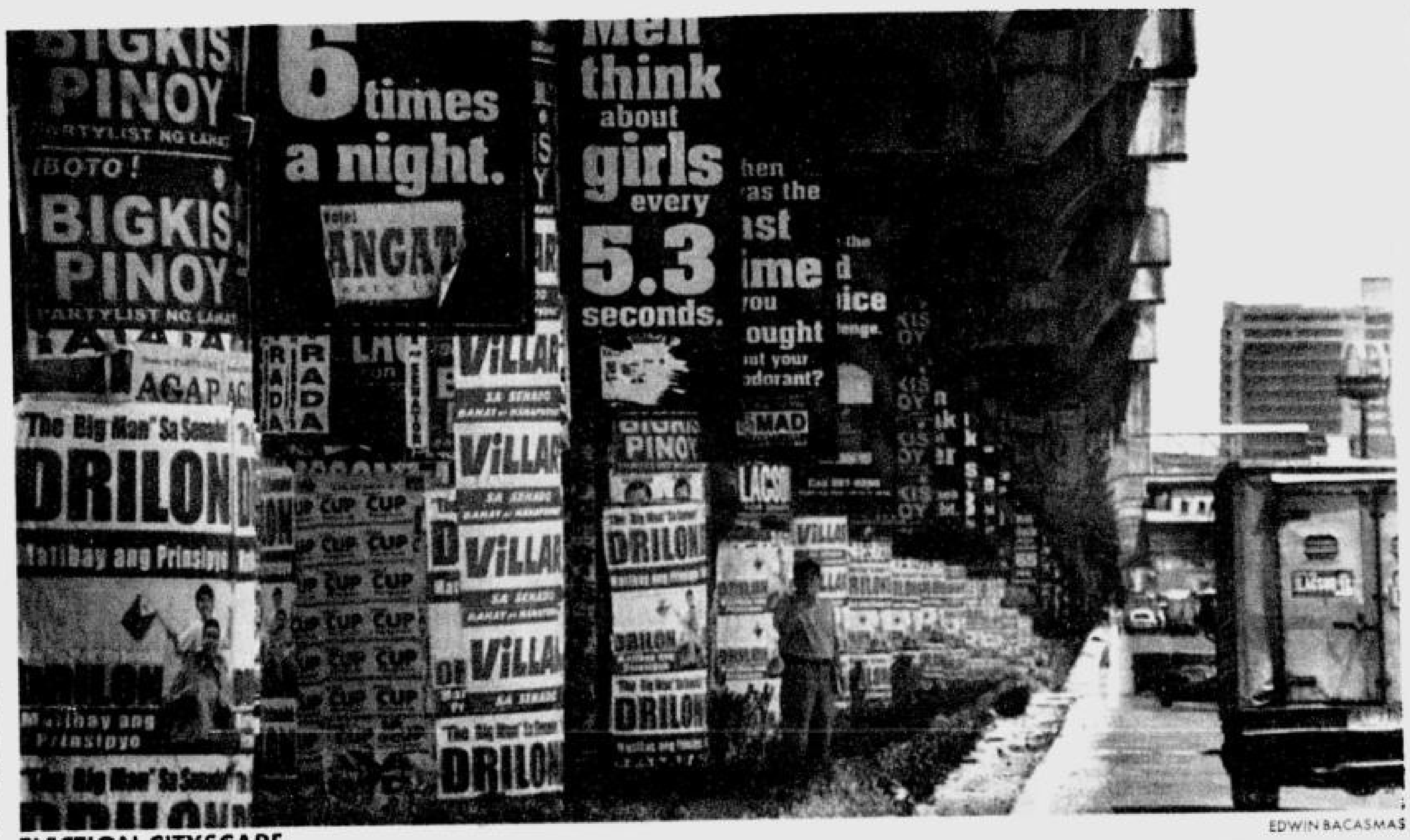
His assailant was identified as Mayor Sebastian "Bastek" Serag, older brother of outgoing Rep. Ninfa Garin of the first district of Iloilo. The mayor has surrendered to the police.

Sibya's death brought to 51 the death toll in the run-up to the May 14 elections.

Among those killed were a candidate for governor, eight candidates for mayor, a candidate for vice mayor and candidates for provincial, city or municipal councils.

Because of the violence, the Commission on Elections has listed 76 areas as hot spots.

ILOILO/ A20



EDWIN BACASMAS

ELECTION CITYSCAPE
Posters, posters everywhere litter every inch of available space of every post of the Metro Rail along Edsa in Quezon City.

Bug me, Enrile dares gov't on cheating

BY DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

OPPOSITION candidate Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, out on bail on a charge of rebellion, yesterday dared authorities to bug his phones and monitor his house to dispel suspicions that he would spearhead election fraud.

"I challenge them . . . They can watch me, tap my phones, watch who comes to my house, so we can finish all these doubts once and for all," Enrile said in a news conference.

The Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) candidate was suspected of engaging in *dagdag-bawas* (vote padding and shaving) during the 1995 senatorial elections.

He proclaimed his innocence of charges that he cheated now Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and the late Rep. Ramon Mitra of victory.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, now also a PnM candidate, was likewise suspected of benefiting from *dagdag-bawas* at the expense of Pimentel and Mitra.

Pimentel's electoral protest was deemed moot and academic when he won in the 1998 senatorial elections.

The National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) yesterday said Secretaries Raul Roco (education),

BUG/ A20

'We have no intention of bringing Erap back'

BY JULIET JAVELLANA AND CARLITO PABLO

"WE HAVE no intention of reinstalling former President Joseph Estrada," reelectionist Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan told Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes on April 29, according to National Security Adviser Roilo Golez.

Golez said Honasan made the statement while attempting to persuade the government to negotiate with what the senator called "our group" prior to the Labor Day attack on Malacañang.

Golez made the allegation after Army Brig. Gen. Marcelino "Jake" Malajacan, one of 11 oppositionists allegedly behind a failed May 1 power-grab attempt, turned himself in to military authorities yesterday morning.

According to Golez, Honasan called Reyes when word spread that the pro-Estrada crowd at Edsa would reach one million and that high-ranking military officials would be defecting.

The senator told the defense chief that his only objective was to bring about peace and order "so we should work together," Golez said.

"There was no direct mention of power-sharing," the official admitted.

But he added that in such situations, there were only two possible interpretations.

"First, this could have been an offer of cooperation so that the problem at Edsa could be solved. Second, this (could have been) an offer for power sharing because they thought they (were bargaining from) a position of strength," Golez said.

He recalled the President's disclosure earlier this week that she immediately turned down the offer.

WE HAVE/ A5

Negative ad exec gets threats

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

"WATCH ur back," the cell phone text message warned.

The head of the ad agency that created a controversial series of negative ads targeting opposition candidates reported receiving the threat yesterday, as a leader of the 13-0 Movement, which put out the ads, said she feared that she was under surveillance.

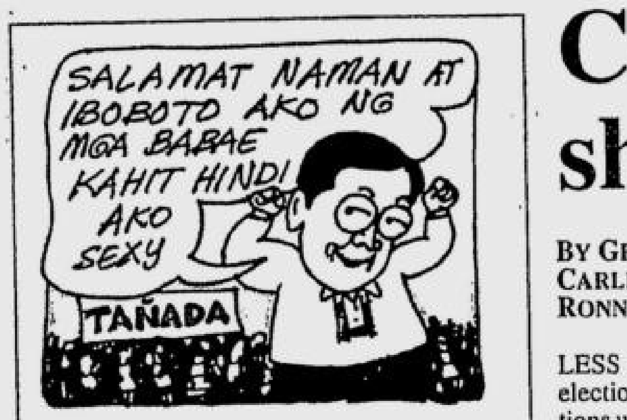
Yolly Ong, chair of Campaigns Advocacy and PR Inc., said the apparent "death threat" was one of the reasons that she spoke out at a news conference yesterday to defend what she called "truth ads."

The text message was sent to her a day after Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson identified her as the head of the agency which made the TV ads, she said.

Ong told the INQUIRER that she did not want to be intimidated by the threat but was taking precautions nonetheless.

At the same press conference, Dr.

NEGATIVE/ A13



SALAMAT NAMAN AT IBOBOTO AKO NG MGA BABAE KAHIT HINDI AKO SEXY
TAÑADA

Bobby Tañada is ladies' choice

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND MARTIN P. MARFIL

AND to think he's not even sexy. Women are coming forward to help Wigberto Tañada in his run for the Senate, and the candidate himself is wondering why.

At a press conference yesterday, Sen. Loren Legarda launched a novel way of campaigning for Tañada: Through the power of cell phone texting.

Using her own phone, Legarda sent

BOBBY/ A6

Comelec rushes shipping of forms

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA, CARLITO PABLO AND RONNEL W. DOMINGO

LESS THAN 72 hours before the elections, the Commission on Elections was still shipping ballot boxes, election forms and other documents to different parts of the country.

"We are now in the final stage of sending out materials," Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said. "I want to make sure that most of these are sent out today or tomorrow."

The National Power Corp. yesterday also assured the public of a brownout-free election.

An estimated 35 million voters are expected to flock to 226,690 precincts nationwide on Monday.

Some 17,000 candidates are vying for 3,600 elective posts nationwide. Up for grabs are 13 Senate seats, 262 seats in the House of Representatives, including party-list slots, and local posts such as those of the governor, vice governor, provincial board member, city or town mayor, vice mayor and city or town councilor.

Local and senatorial candidates have until 12 midnight today to campaign and hold rallies.

Benipayo said he was tapping military air, sea and land transport for the shipment of tons of materials because domestic airlines and cargo-forwarding firms could not handle the load.

Benipayo said Armed Forces Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim had committed C-130 transport planes and Fokker planes to ship "tons" of materials to the provinces, mostly in Mindanao and the Visayas.

The materials include resolutions, election returns, certificates of votes and certificates of canvass. The materials are being escorted by regional election directors and guarded by Marines.

The Comelec en banc has held

COMELEC/ A20

Iglesia tells flock: Vote 8-4-1

BY DONNA S. CUETO

IT'S 8-4-1 in favor of the administration.

The Iglesia ni Cristo yesterday announced its lineup of 13 senatorial candidates whom its members would support in Monday's elections: eight are from the People Power Coalition, four from the Puwersa ng Masa and one independent senatorial candidate.

The eight PPC candidates are Joker Arroyo, Franklin Drilon, Juan Flavier, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Sergio Osmeña III, Francis Pangilinan, Ralph Recto and Manuel Villar.

The four opposition candidates from the PnM are Edgardo Angara, Luisa Estrada, Panfilo Lacson and Miriam Santiago.

Broadcaster Noli de Castro was the lone independent candidate on the INC list.

The endorsement will be read in worship services today and tomorrow.

INC members, estimated to number at least five million, vote as one in accordance with biblical doctrine on church unity.

In a statement, INC spokesperson Bienvenido Santiago said they decided to announce the lineup a day earlier than was planned to "put an end to speculations and innuendoes that (the list) had been vacillating."

"This lineup has been finalized since early this week and was to be announced through a circular to be

IGLESIA/ A13

WALKING TALL
President Macapagal arrives on Friday for ground-breaking rites of the Mancatlan Bridge in Porac, Tarlac, wearing a touch of sartorial elegance, boots.
JOAN BONDOC

Second FRONT PAGE

MAY PAGKUKULANG NGA ANG SIMBAHAN

Church asks poor's forgiveness

By NORMAN BORDADORA

MEA culpa. Mea culpa. Mea maxima culpa.

The Catholic Church and the business elite, two of the prime targets of angry pro-Estrada protesters two weeks ago, have owned up to leading excessively lavish lifestyles and neglecting the poor and will be asking forgiveness for these sins during reconsecration rites at the Edsa Shrine on Sunday.

The prayers for forgiveness culminate two weeks of reparation and sacrifice at the shrine after it was desecrated by supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada who held a week-long protest at the shrine that culminated in the siege of Malacañang on May 1.

Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin will lead the reconsecration rites which are being held on the eve of the general elections on May 14 and which will include representatives from the urban poor.

Msgr. Socrates Villegas, the Cardinal's spokesperson and rector of the Edsa Shrine, said Church leaders have recognized their failure to fully address the problems of the poor even as some of them continue to lead extravagant lifestyles.

The Church has asked that the organizers of the pro-Estrada protests be held liable for the actions of the masses. Sin said the poor had been manipulated by these leaders for their own personal and political interests.

Villegas said a representative of Church will say a prayer, asking for forgiveness "for neglecting the poor and failing to live simply."

During the week-long pro-Estrada protests, the crowds had condemned in foul and obscene language the Catholic Church and its leaders for their alleged failure to address the problems of the poor while fraternizing with the elite.

A representative from the business sector will also say a prayer to ask forgiveness for the elite's excessive lifestyle and failure to successfully fulfill its duties "as stewards of God's material blessings."

Finally, an urban poor representative will say a prayer on behalf of the masses that went to Edsa in support of Estrada, asking forgiveness for the desecration of the shrine.

In an earlier letter to various parishes, Sin asked that the poor in every community be mobilized to attend the reconsecration rites.

On Sunday, the route taken by the pro-Estrada demonstrators when they marched to Malacañang will be sanctified by the Mendiola Angels, a group of priests, nuns and members of civil society, Villegas said.

The group, the same one which held a vigil at Mendiola on April 30, will march from the bridge around 12 noon towards the Edsa Shrine for the reconsecration rites which will start at 4:30 p.m. The group will march in prayer to sanctify the route.

Four other processions will assemble in various churches in Quezon City, San Juan and Mandaluyong at 3 p.m., before marching to the shrine for the outdoor Mass.

Sin is urging the poor and the youth to attend the rites which would likely also serve as a Mass for an honest, peaceful and orderly conduct of the next day's elections.

An image of Our Lady of Fatima will be taken to the Namfrel headquarters at the La Salle Greenhills after the rites.

Villegas said the image, a veteran of Edsa People Power 1 and the vigil at Mendiola, would serve as an inspiration to the Namfrel volunteers who will be conducting the election quick count.

Kidnap-slay raps filed vs 22 in Dacer case

By MICHAEL LIM UBAC

THE JUSTICE department yesterday filed kidnapping and double murder charges against 22 men, including 11 police officers, for the Nov. 24 abduction and killing of Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Manuel Corbito.

But justice officials failed to criminally charge any mastermind behind the gruesome crime, Samuel Ong, National Capital Region chief of the National Bureau of Investigation, said in an interview yesterday.

Former national police and Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force chief Panfilo Lacson and his close aide, Police Superintendent Teofilo Viña, were not among those charged before the Manila Regional Trial Court yesterday.

This left Police Superintendent Glenn Dumlao as the highest police official to be linked to the crime.

Ong said it was Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño who confirmed the filing of formal charges against the 22. He said Zuño had asked for NBI agents to escort the state prosecutors who filed the charges.

The NBI expected the court to issue arrest warrants last night to allow its agents to go after the other suspects.

Dumlao allegedly ordered a team of the PAOCTF to execute Dacer and Corbito in Indang, Cavite, hours after they were abducted on the South Superhighway in Manila.

The rest of the accused, who are former members of PAOCTF Luzon and Visayas units, were Police Chief Inspectors Boy Arnaldo and Bobby Lancauan, SPO4 Boy Laduan, aka Taulava, SPO3 Villanueva, SPO1 Mario Sarmiento, SPO1 William Reed, SPO3 Lacasandile, PO2 Thomas Sapitan Sarmiento, SPO1 Aguilar Nemeno and SPO4 Marino Soberano.

The civilians who were charged were Alex Diloy, Jimmy and William Lopez. The NBI has, however, recommended that they be turned into state witnesses.

Of the 22 suspects, three are now in NBI custody, while seven policemen are with the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

The failure to charge Viña came as a surprise as the former chief of PAOCTF Visayas was believed to have supervised the whole operation—from the surveillance to kidnapping and to the final execution of the two victims.

Until Lacson's name cropped up, Viña was the highest police official allegedly involved in the Dacer case.

But Ong admitted the NBI could not pin down Viña with only circumstantial evidence.

"We don't have a good case against him. As far as we are concerned the testimonies (of the witnesses) against him are mere hearsay," he said. *With a report from BR Guiruela and Anissa Apolinario*

'Crising' threatens North

TROPICAL storm Crising (international name Cimaron) continued yesterday to threaten extreme Northern Luzon, prompting weathermen to alert residents there about possible flashfloods and landslides.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said that as of 5 p.m. Friday, the eye of the storm was spotted 160 kilometers north-northwest of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, or 120 km northwest of Laoag City, packing sustained winds of 65 kilometers per hour near the center.

Crising is expected to move north at 15 kph in the direction of Batanes.

It is forecast to be 350 km north of Laoag City, or 140 km north-northwest of Basco, Batanes, by this afternoon.

Metro Manila will continue to have fair weather leading up to Monday's local and national elections, according to Dr. Nilo Frisco, PAGASA chief weather forecaster.

Frisco said it will be back to dry weather next week since the rainy season will not start until about the third week of May.

Public Storm Signal No. 2 remains hoisted over Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and La Union. These areas experienced stormy weather yesterday with very rough coastal waters.

Public Storm Signal No. 1 is in effect over Pangasinan, Benguet, Mt. Province, Abra, Apayao and northern Cagayan. Coastal waters will be rough and dangerous to seacraft in those areas. *Cynthia Balana*

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Registration (7:30-9:00)
Morning Session (9:00-12:00) - Administration of Private Schools, Dr. ARMAND FABELLA
Afternoon Session (2:00-5:00) - Recent CHED Orders Affecting Private Schools And Universities, Director JULITO VITRIOLO

Wednesday, 23 May 2001
Morning Session: (9:00-12:00) - Student Admission and Discipline, ATTY. ULPIANO SARMIENTO III
Afternoon Session: (2:00-5:00) - Significant Personnel and Labor Standards Affecting Private Educational Institutions, Dean ANTONIO H. ABAD, JR.

Thursday, 24 May 2001
Morning Session (9:00-12:00) - The Admission of Foreign Students in Colleges and Universities, ATTY. LINDA M. HORNILLA
Afternoon Session (2:00-5:00) - Vicarious Liability of Private Schools and Administrators, Dean BARTOLOME S. CARALE

Friday, 25 May 2001
Morning Session (9:00-12:00) - Rules on Tuition Fee Increases, Dir. ROGER PEREZ
Afternoon Session (2:00-5:00) - The Constitutional Aspects of the Modernization Act of the Professional Regulatory Commission as it Affects Private Schools, Dean PACIFICO A. AGABIN

Saturday, 26 May 2001
Morning Session (9:00-12:00) - Labor Unions and the Private Schools, Atty. SABINO PADILLA, JR.

Registration Fee: P3,000.00/participant to cover the costs of handouts/lecture materials, meals (2 snacks and one lunch) and certificate of completion. Reservations should be made on or before May 18, 2001 through 9297137, 4349531 or 9205301 loc. 5862.

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NPC quits quick poll count

WITH a new board at its helm, the National Press Club yesterday voted to give up its accreditation as one of two quick-count bodies for the May 14 elections.

After a heated debate, the new board voted 6-5 to withdraw its Commission on Elections accreditation, leaving the National Movement for Free Elections as the sole quick-count body in Monday's polls.

The new board, led by president Louie Logarta, was voted to power in the NPC elections on May 6.

Logarta, who replaced the Manila Bulletin's Antonio Antonio and was a director during Antonio's presidency, pointed out that other NPC officers had been "kept in the dark about the NPC Bantay Bilang 2001."

He said that he called a fresh vote on the project after its proponents failed to submit the list of 229,000 volunteers to the Comelec.

"This changed the picture altogether," Logarta said.

The NPC "would not have the technology and manpower required for such a massive and nationwide undertaking," he said.

"The reason for the vote of 6-5 against the further involvement of the NPC in this effort is we do not want to jeopardize and tarnish the reputation of the press club," Logarta said. *Rocky Nazareno, with reports from Mae Lorrraine Rafols and Marionne Acabado*

Wanted American deported to Manila

By TJ Burgonio

AN AMERICAN treasure hunter wanted for the rape of a Mindanao girl in 1994 and for large-scale fraud arrived in the Philippines yesterday from Indonesia which extradited him.

A handcuffed Dennis Austin Standefer arrived at 2 a.m. on board Philippine Airlines from Jakarta escorted by two agents of the National Bureau of Investigation.

The bearded Standefer, clad in a blue shirt and denim pants, was met at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport by Paul Boyd of the US Embassy. He was taken straight to NBI headquarters on Taft Ave., Manila.

The 56-year-old California native will be brought to Surigao del Norte in a few days to face charges he raped a 15-year-old girl, NBI lawyer Rogelio Mamaril, one of the escorts, said.

Standefer escaped to Malaysia and then Indonesia after the alleged rape. In 1998, he was charged with the crime before a Surigao court and a warrant for his arrest was issued.

The following year, the Philippine government requested his extradition from Indonesia, which had arrested him for overstaying his visa.

Indonesian President Abdurahman Wahid agreed to the extradition on condition he would be spared from the death penalty, which a rape conviction carries.

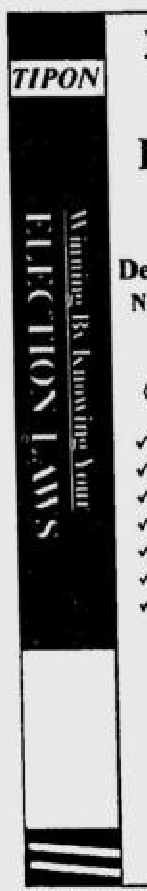
Former President Joseph Estrada, prior to his ouster on Jan. 20, assured the Indonesian government the Philippines would comply with the condition.

Ricardo Diaz, Interpol chief for the NBI, said Standefer is also accused of defrauding some 60 Filipinos and Americans of hundreds of thousands of dollars to finance dubious treasure-hunting activities in the Philippines.

The Associated Press said Standefer was arrested after a two-year hunt by Karl Ryll, a San Gabriel Valley, California, high school teacher who said he was fooled into raising more than $90,000 from friends and acquaintances, including $6,000 of his own money, to fund Standefer's expeditions.

Standefer was arrested in the Philippines in March 1995 but was released for medical treatment after claiming he had had a diabetic seizure.

With an AP report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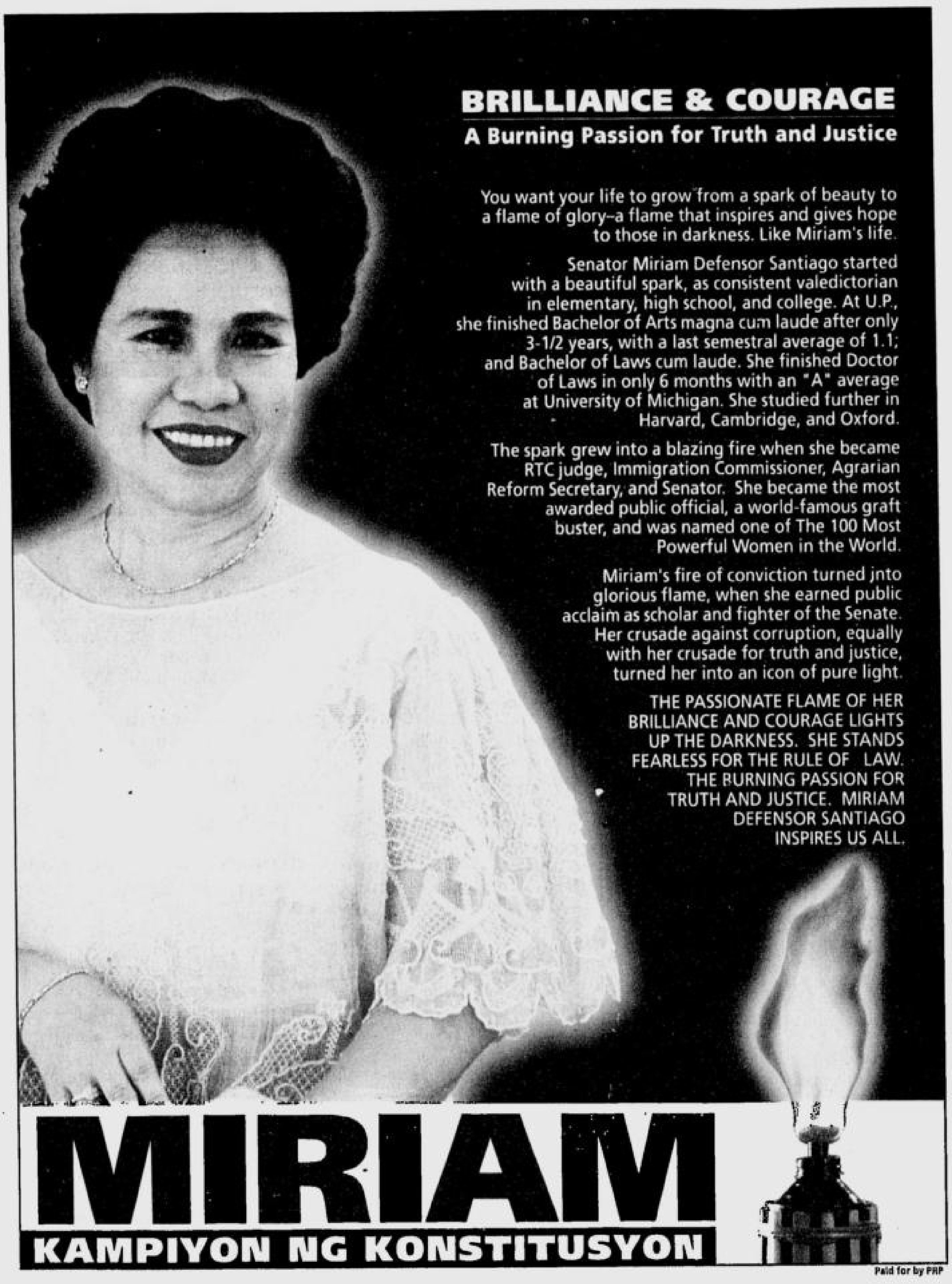
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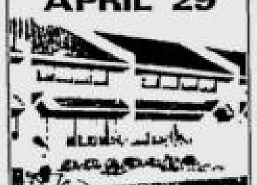
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Comelec to set up special precinct for Estradas

By Rocky Nazareno
and Volt Contreras

THE COMMISSION on Elections will set up a special polling precinct at Camp Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, to allow detained former President Joseph Estrada and his son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, to vote in Monday's elections.

This after the Sandiganbayan had earlier ordered the Philippine National Police to provide security to the Estradas so they could vote in their hometown of San Juan, Metro Manila.

PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza objected to the order, saying it would cause a "very big security problem and entail urgent preparations" for the police whose resources will be stretched thin covering all the election hotspots in the country.

PNP Deputy Chief Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane then asked the Comelec to put up a special precinct at the camp so the Estradas would not have to leave it.

At the same time, Chief Supt. Thompson Lantion, chief of the PNP directorate for police community relations, went to see Sandiganbayan Third Division chair Justice Anacleto Badoy to ask the court to reconsider its order.

Lantion first dropped by the office of Court Sheriff Ed Urieta where reporters could hear him objecting vehemently to the Sandigan order.

Lantion said that transporting the Estradas—on election day at that—would be risky.

The Comelec then passed Resolution 4220 granting the police request that the Estradas be allowed to vote where they are being held.

The Sandigan's Third Division, which is hearing the plunder case against the Estradas, had granted the motion filed by lawyer Rene Saguisag to let father and son vote in San Juan.

It also allowed lawyer Edward Serapio, a co-accused, to leave detention at the Criminal Investigation Group office to vote in his hometown of Obando, Bulacan.

The court extended the accommodation to the three provided the PNP could ensure their safety and quick return to detention after casting their votes.

"The special polling place will be manned by the same persons manning the San Juan precinct where the Estradas are registered," Ebdane said.

Ebdane said the PNP will provide transportation for the Comelec officials who will put up the special precinct for the Estradas.

The Comelec resolution was approved by Commissioners Mehol Sadain, Luzviminda Tangcangco and Ralph Lantion *With Christine Herrera and Marie Carisa Ordinario*

Miriam: Erap return a 'delicious possibility'

BACOLOD CITY—A "delicious possibility."

This was how opposition senatorial candidate Miriam Defensor-Santiago described the return of ousted President Joseph Estrada to office should the Puwersa ng Masa win enough Senate seats in the May 14 elections.

Santiago said that if at least five opposition candidates won a Senate seat in Monday's polls, they would be able to gain control of the chamber and muster enough votes to question the legality of the Macapagal-Arroyo presidency.

The opposition, she said, would also initiate a Senate inquiry to determine if military and police officers committed treason when they withdrew support from Estrada during People Power II in January.

Santiago said the officers had a sworn duty to protect their commander-in-chief yet they abandoned Estrada and sided with Ms Macapagal.

The withdrawal of police and military support hastened Estrada's decision to step down.

Currently there are 10 incumbent senators whose terms will expire in 2004.

Six of them are allied with Estrada—Vicente Sotto III, Blas Ople, Tessie Aquino-Oreta, John Osmeña, Robert Jaworski and Ramon Revilla.

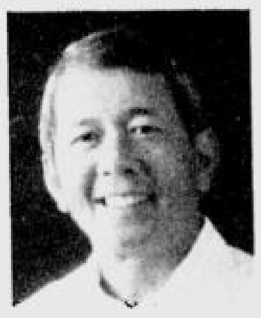
Three of them are known to be pro-administration—Loren Legarda-Leviste, Renato Cayetano and Robert Barbers.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. is perceived to be independent although he was at the People Power II rallies at Edsa.

Five opposition winners coupled with the six already in the Senate would give the pro-Estrada forces 11 seats.

With Pimentel as the swing vote and if a pro-administration senator could be persuaded to join their cause, the opposition would be able to wrest control of the Senate, according to Santiago's scenario.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau



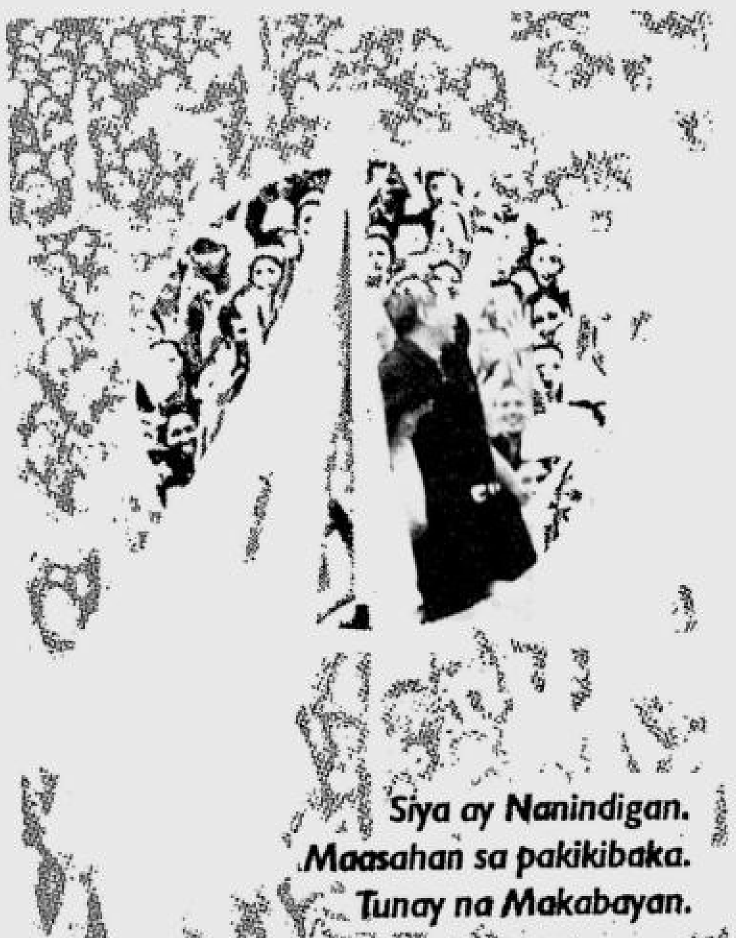

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Photo at Edsa by Jim Paredes

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Edgardo G. Buenaobra
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Abner T. Mangui-ob

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Avelino A. Pastor
Rommel A. Domingo
Josephine H. Custodio
Reformado Architects
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Antonio D. Rodriguez
Eduardo A. Babon
Roberto L. Tayson
Percy A. Eugenio

•Category D (House worth P450,000)•
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May 12, 2001 -- Inquirer

Puno sees 7-6 opposition win

By Dona Pazzibugan

DEFYING poll survey results showing otherwise, the opposition's "special operations man" has fearlessly forecast a victory for the opposition senatorial slate in Monday's election.

Citing his supposedly more scientific survey, Ronaldo Puno, the man often "credited" for the victories of former presidents Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada, said "it's a definite 7-6" in favor of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa coalition.

"A possible 8-5, but we're hoping for a 9-4 result," Puno said at a news conference at the Club Filipino yesterday.

Puno, however, refused to disclose the names of the winning opposition candidates, beyond declaring that former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito "is definitely going to win."

But reporters have learned that Ejercito was not in the "Magic 7" of the Puno survey.

Neither was Puno's older brother, Ricardo "Dong" Puno, who has been in the tail-end in recent Social Weather Stations surveys.

Instead of relying on the surveys of the SWS and Pulse Asia that showed an 8-5 victory for the pro-administration People Power Coalition, Puno claimed that the opposition carried out its own "census" of 250,000 barangay councilmen (out of a total 280,000).

This was how they were able to predict the winning candidates in both the local and national levels, he said.

Puno said the opposition survey had focused on the barangay councilmen because of their "vote delivery power." These barangay officials can translate their support for a candidate into actual votes, he said.

Based on this so-called census, Puno predicted that the opposition will win "eight or more" senatorial seats in 34 provinces, garnering some 12 million votes.

The PPC, on the other hand, will win eight or more seats in 26 provinces with around 8 million votes, he said.

The remaining 18 provinces are a "toss-up," that is, they can go 7-6 for either the opposition or the PPC.

Puno said it will be a tough race in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao, where barangay councilmen do not have much influence over voters.

"But we believe we'll come out ahead . . . It's going to be a close 7-6 or 6-7," he said.

Asked why he would not comment on his brother's chances, Puno smiled and remarked in Filipino: "My older brother will be very angry with me if he loses."

'We have no intention of bringing Erap back'

(From page1)

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said he was at a Cabinet meeting when Honasan's call to Reyes was reported.

"I was personally present in the Cabinet meeting where it was reported that (Honasan) called up a member of the Cabinet, and his theme was that they have a very strong force, so we (Macapagal administration) better talk with them," Tiglao said.

Council

He said Honasan talked of a "council" to negotiate with Reyes.

"Gringo wanted to talk to Secretary Reyes but (the latter) said he would bring others with him. That was what they (opposition candidates) were claiming was the government panel," Tiglao said in a phone interview.

"But the reason why Secretary Reyes said that was because he suspected that if he met with them, they would spread the word that he was defecting to their side."

Tiglao said Honasan made it appear that there were ongoing negotiations between the opposition and the Macapagal administration in the two days before the May 1 siege of Malacañang.

Tiglao urged the public to be wary of Honasan's claims of innocence and frowned on the senator's appearance on TV after a week in hiding.

"What I can say is that our people should seriously think about this because obviously, this is a major propaganda push by Senator Honasan," he said.

Malajacan surrenders

An official Philippine Army statement said Malajacan's "resurfacing can be considered as a big step toward ensuring an honest, orderly and peaceful election on Monday."

Malajacan, Honasan and former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson have been tagged as leaders of Oplan Noel, an alleged scheme involving terrorist acts aimed at derailing the May 14 elections.

Army Deputy Chief Brig. Gen. Arsenio Tecson said Malajacan gave himself up at the Army general headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Makati, about 7 a.m. yesterday.

Tecson told reporters that a few days earlier, Malajacan contacted Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, commander of the 7th Infantry Division based in Nueva Ecija, indicating that he was willing to surrender.

Carolina relayed Malajacan's call to Army headquarters, which the fugitive general personally contacted Thursday night.

"He came on his own," Tecson said, adding that Malajacan had denied that he had gone into hiding. "He is now under military control."

Malajacan asked Army authorities to keep him away from the media, Tecson added.

'Discouraged'

The controversial general is being investigated for his alleged involvement in the so-called Edsa III uprising.

"He has denied any participation in that incident," Tecson said in an interview.

While there are no formal charges filed against Malajacan, Tecson said Army authorities have "discouraged" him from leaving the camp.

It is not the first time that Malajacan has been linked to coup attempts.

In 1986, he was presented on national television by then strongman Ferdinand Marcos after being caught in connection with a plan by military rebels to storm Malacañang.

The rebels, belonging to the then Reform the Armed Forces Movement, later holed up in Camp Aguinaldo along with their patron and leader, then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, sparking the People Power I revolt.

Enrile's security aide at the time was another RAM leader, then Colonel Honasan.

Enrile and Honasan have also been tagged as suspects in an alleged conspiracy to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Malajacan and Honasan are batchmates of Lacson in Class 1971 of the Philippine Military Academy.

Lacson, another opposition candidate, is also one of the 11 suspected leaders of the failed May 1 "rebellion."

'100-percent assurance'

Under the Aquino administration, Malajacan was the operations officer of Honasan, who launched several failed coup attempts.

Malajacan was also part of a group that campaigned for Joseph Estrada in the 1998 elections.

His promotion to brigadier general under the Estrada administration set off a wave of protests.

He also served as senior military aide to then Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado, a senatorial candidate on the Puwersa ng Masa ticket.

Malajacan was with Lacson when the latter went to the United States last year, when Lacson was rumored to have unsuccessfully courted the support of US legislators and officials as an alternative to Estrada, who was then facing his impeachment trial.

Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz yesterday gave his "100-percent" assurance that Honasan and Lacson would not be arrested until warrants for their arrest have been secured from the courts.

But he and Tiglao expressed confidence that the justice department has a strong case against the alleged plotters, including eyewitnesses and intelligence officers who are willing to testify on the involvement of the opposition candidates in the alleged power-grab attempt

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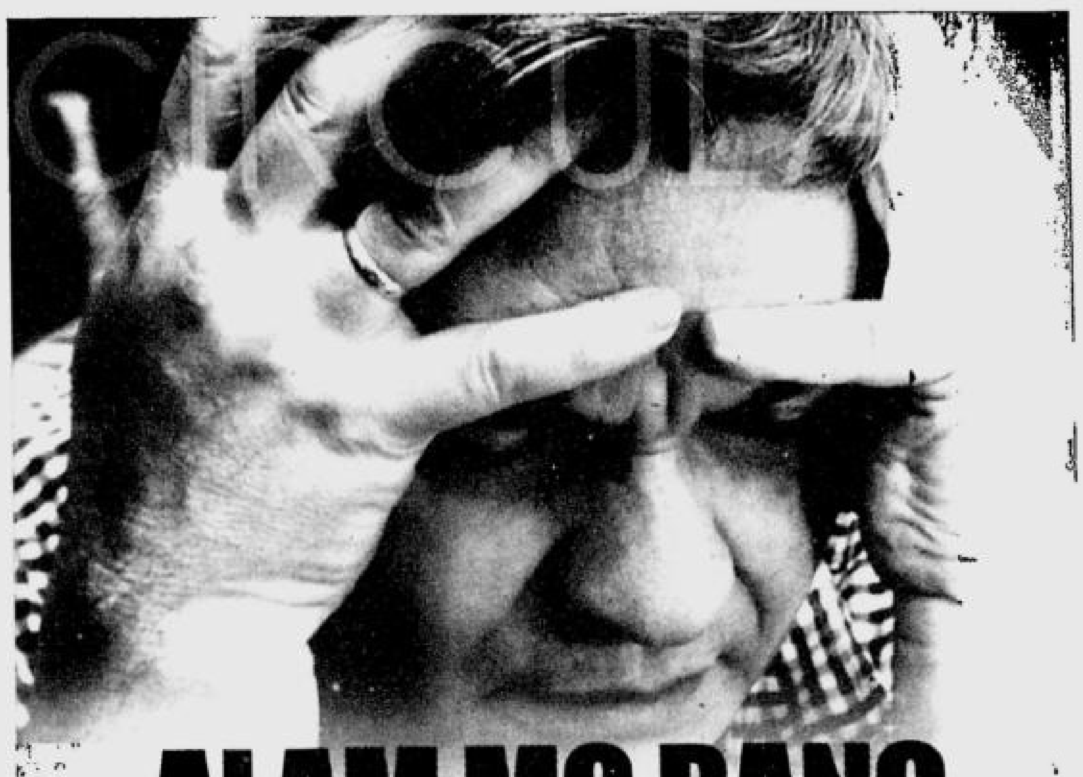

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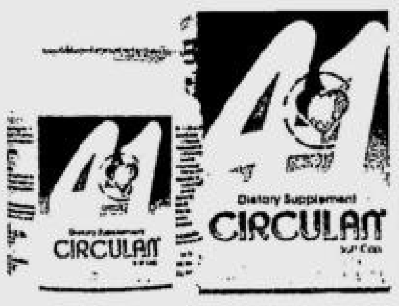

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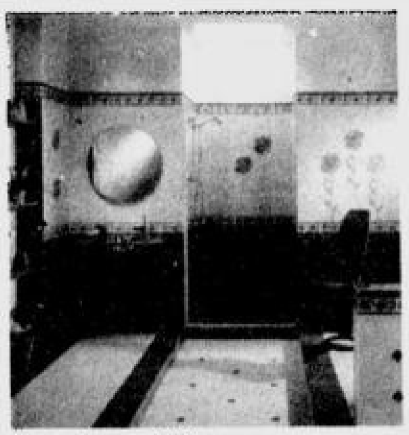

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Bobby Tañada is 'ladies' choice'

(From page A1)

out a text message in Taglish that read: "Bobby Tañada's victory is a victory for all of us. Vote Bobby Tañada for the Senate!—A msg from Loren Legarda and her Txt Brigade. Pls. pass."

Even President Macapagal-Arroyo is going the extra mile for the People Power Coalition (PPC) candidate.

Yesterday in Porac, Pampanga, where she led groundbreaking rites for the Mancatian Bridge, she urged her province mates to vote for Tañada, who, she pointed out, was on top of former President Corazon Aquino's list.

Ms Macapagal made the plug in the course of a speech she delivered in her native Kampampangan, wherein she "quizzed" her audience on the PPC campaign acronym of "VOT FOR D CHAMMP."

As she rattled off the letters, the audience shouted out the names the letters stood for.

When she came to the letter "T," the President paused and said: "Don't forget to vote for Tañada. He's going to be *Tita* Cory's No. 1 on her ballot. We should also make him No. 1 in our ballots."

Aquino has been endorsing the soft-spoken Tañada during the campaign. She even appeared in a TV ad, saying the people needed him in the Senate.

Why?

Asked by the INQUIRER why women were actively supporting his candidacy, the shy Tañada said: "I am not even sexy."

He was expressing agreement with INQUIRER columnist Rina David's view earlier this week that he was not "sexy" in the manner of politicians.

Surveys have showed that he was not rating well with women, he noted.

But at her press conference, Legarda said she had long admired Tañada as a "man of unwavering conviction," "true statesman," "genuine public servant" and "whose name has remained untainted all these years in public service."

She said Tañada was her *tito* (uncle) because he and her father were classmates at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Legarda also said she was following Aquino's call to put Tañada's name at the top of her ballot on May 14.

She said it would be a shame and a putdown of the "Edsa II spirit" if he would not be elected to the Senate.

Legarda said she had found a good campaign method in texting.

"We know that during Edsa II, (which led to the ousting of disgraced President Joseph Estrada), it was the 'text brigade' that really informed the people of what was happening at Edsa," she said.

In a statement she later issued, Legarda urged texters, particularly the youth who failed to register for the elections, to help Tañada win a Senate seat.

Tañada thanked Legarda, saying the support of a highly respected person was "a big help" to his candidacy.

He promised to remain what people have known him to be—nationalistic and ready to work for the good of Filipinos.

Plug

The President's direct plug for Tañada yesterday was a departure from the campaign spiel she delivered to urban poor communities on Thursday.

Accompanied by Tañada, she visited four campaign rallies in Metro Manila cities where she signed two executive orders and two proclamations concerning socialized housing for urban poor residents.

She also gave her audiences the PPC "quiz," but aside from Tañada, she batted for several other PPC candidates—Ernesto Herrera, Solita Monsod, Liwayway Chato and Roberto Pagdanganan.

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Out and out fraudulent practices like payment of questionable Purchased Power Adjustments (PPA) to First Gas Power, a Lopez-owned company, worth P914 million (for March 2001 only) in spite of the fact that not even one kilowatt hour of power was ever delivered to Meralco. These questionable PPA payments are estimated to reach several billions.

Illegal profits through sweetheart deals between Lopez-controlled Meralco and Lopez-owned firms through power purchase agreements, supply contracts, service contracts, and more. All worth billions every year.

These sweetheart deals are overpriced and thus bloat the Return-On-Rate Base (RORB) rates which ultimately result in higher electric rates to be charged to consumers.

The OMNIBUS POWER ACT is pending today before the bicameral conference committee in Congress where lawmakers and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo are faced with two choices:

To follow the dictates of their individual and collective conscience by striking out anti-consumer, anti-people provisions in the proposed measure.

Or, heed the dictates of power monopolists like Meralco who want to perpetuate and legalize their abuses and exploitation of the long suffering public.

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Only One Senator stood his ground to oppose the onerous provisions of the Omnibus Power Act.

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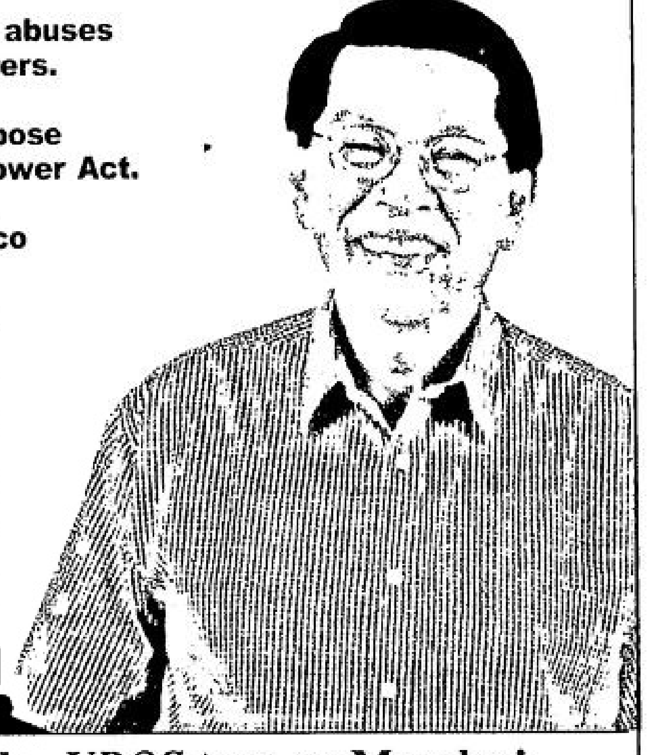

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De Villa leaves hospital, Cabinet

EXECUTIVE Secretary Renato de Villa has been discharged from the hospital after recuperating from a heart cbypass and has made a final decision to leave the Macapagal Cabinet for health reasons.

"(Finance) Secretary Alberto Romulo will assume his post right after the elections," Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said in a phone interview.

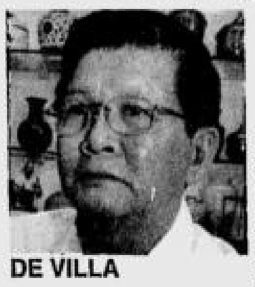
Tiglao said De Villa was released from the hospital on Thursday.

The President has earlier confirmed her plan to appoint Romulo as her Little President on account of De Villa's wish to quit government service and to move Trade Secretary Mar Roxas to the DOF.

She also hinted she offered the DTI post to Interior Secretary Jose Lina, but Lina chose to stay at the DILG.

While the Palace is looking for a DTI secretary, Undersecretary Vince Perez will serve as officer in charge.

Juliet Labog-Javellana


DE VILLA

VOTE ALL WORKERS ALLIANCE TRADE UNIONS AWATU VOTE

PARTY-LIST

Paid by Friends of AWATU
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Tinig at Lakas ng mga MANGGAGAWA at SAMBAYANANG PILIPINO!

AWATU PARTY LIST

The All Workers Alliance Trade Unions (AWATU), through former House assistant majority floor leader Temistocles "Tim" Dejon, the labor sector's representative who served with distinction in the 9th and 10th Congress, vowed to pursue its continuing agenda of promoting the welfare of the working class.

AWATU's vision and plan of action which Dejon described as "pro-God; pro-country and pro-people," is anchored on five major planks, namely:

Promotion of the welfare of workers, farmers, fisherfolk, and indigents in various parts of the country by providing means of income like livelihood projects and cooperatives; establishment of viable small-scale industries to afford them and their families additional means of income; defending the rights of citizens especially the marginalized sectors like workers, farmers, and fisherfolk and others through the conduct of seminars and training activities; enactment of laws providing decent but affordable mass housing facilities for workers and other low-salaried employees of government; and fighting for the rights of workers to avail of free health care benefits and programs especially when they contract work-related diseases or illnesses.

As AWATU representative for two terms (1992-1998) Congressman Dejon was cited by multi-sectoral groups including the print and broadcast media for his outstanding performance in the field of law-making.

He has shown full dedication to public service by being one of the few solons who posted a 100 percent attendance; authored and co-authored 20 bills which have been enacted into laws including the death penalty with lethal injection law for heinous crimes; represented the country with distinction in various international conferences on workers and poverty issues and has never been involved in anomalous transactions in government.

A lawyer-genuine labor leader with proven track record of integrity in government service, Dejon, who is AWATU's incumbent president, was also a former commissioner of the National Housing Commission, National Wage Commission, DENR Adjudication Pollution Board, and member of the Industrial Peace Council.

Vision and Plan of Action of AWATU

- Itaguyod ang kapakanan ng mga manggagawa, magbubukid, mangingisda at maralitang mamamayan sa iba't-ibang panig ng ating bansa, sa pamamagitan ng pagtatatag sa kanilang kabuhayan katulad ng livelihood projects at mga kooperatiba.
- Maitaguyod na magkaroon sila ng mga kaunting negosyo katulad ng pagtatatag ng mga small and medium enterprises upang madagdagan ang kanilang kabuhayan.
- Itaguyod at ipagtanggol ang mga karapatan ng lahat ng mamamayan, manggagawa, mangingisda at iba pa sa pamamagitan ng mga seminar at training o pagsasanay.
- Tutulong upang magkaroon ng desente at murang pabahay ang mga manggagawa.
- Ipaglaban ang karapatan ng mga manggagawa upang magkaroon ng libreng programang pangkalusugan kung ang dahilan nito ay may kaugnayan sa trabaho.

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May 25 (Friday)	10:30 AM	Opening Ceremonies - (Ribbon Cutting)
	11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	"Chinese Pastries & Delicacies" By: China Baking School
	3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Product Launching: Butter By: Actron Industries Inc.
May 26 (Saturday)	10:00 AM - 12:00 NN	U.S. Potato Board (Function Rm. C)
	10:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Product Launching: New Generation Bread Improver By: Puratos Phils.
	1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	"The Relation Between Gas Production & Gas Retention" By: Adsia Eurobakers
	3:30 PM - 5:30 PM	"Great Icings on the Cake" By: Heny Sison (Phil. Dairy Products Corp.)
May 27 (Sunday)	10:30 AM - 2:00 PM	"Chinese Pastries & Delicacies" By: China Baking School
	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	"Synergy Enzymes of Bakery Products for Bread, Biscuits and Noodles" By: Bakeline Enterprises
May 25 - 27	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	"Introduction of New Premix Lines" (Edward Keller Phils. Inc. Booth) "Application of Industrial Chocolate Products" (Edward Keller Phils. Inc. Booth) "East Meets West" (Goodman Fielder Booth)
May 27		Plant Tour Hosts: Phil. Foremost Milling Corp. and other Bakeries
	10:00 AM	Departure from Phil. Trade Training Center (PTTC) to Phil. Foremost Corp.
	12:00 NN	Arrival at Phil. Trade Training Center (PTTC)

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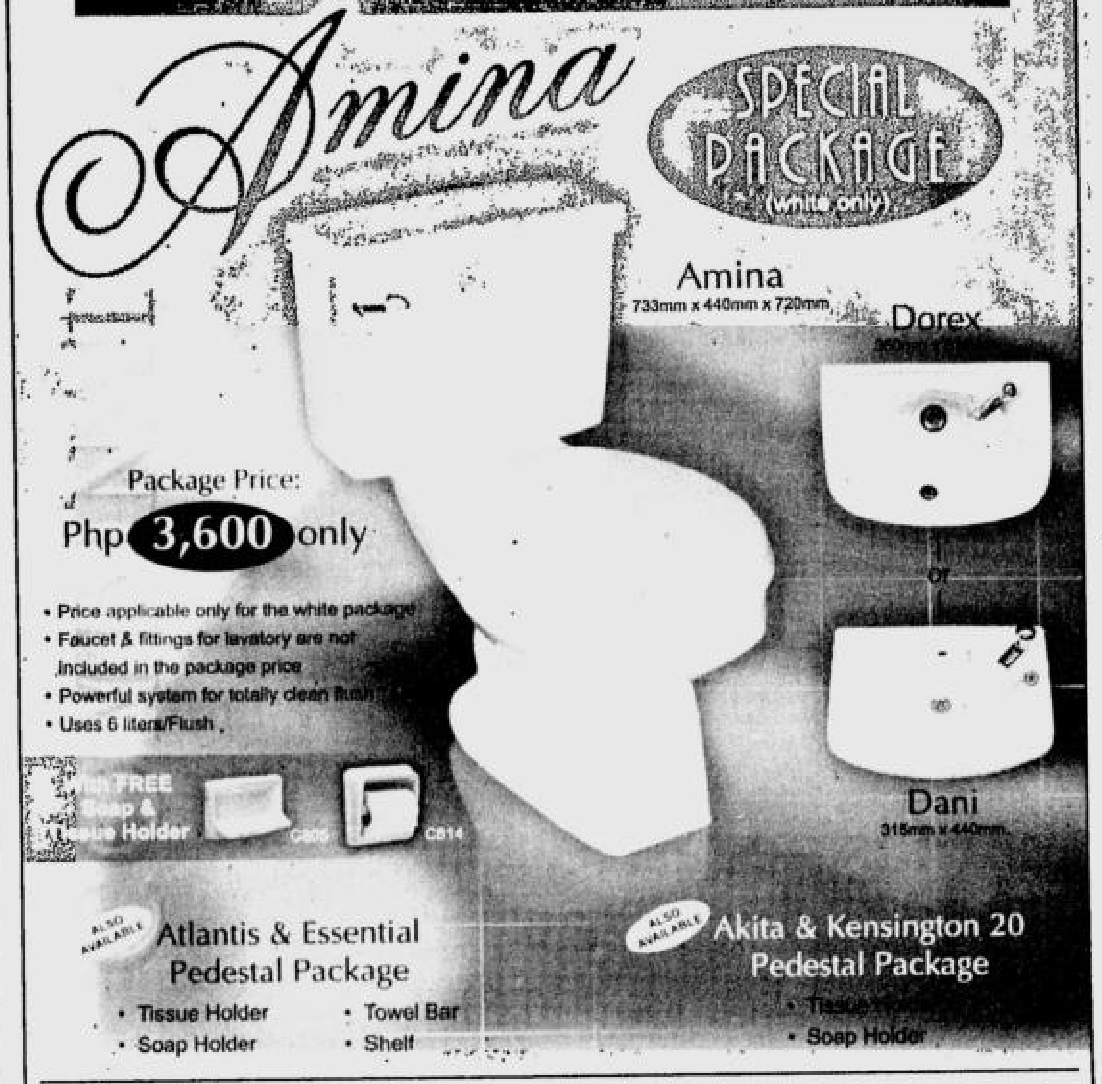
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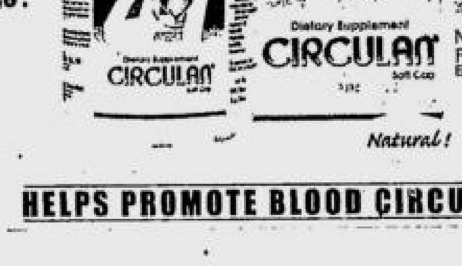
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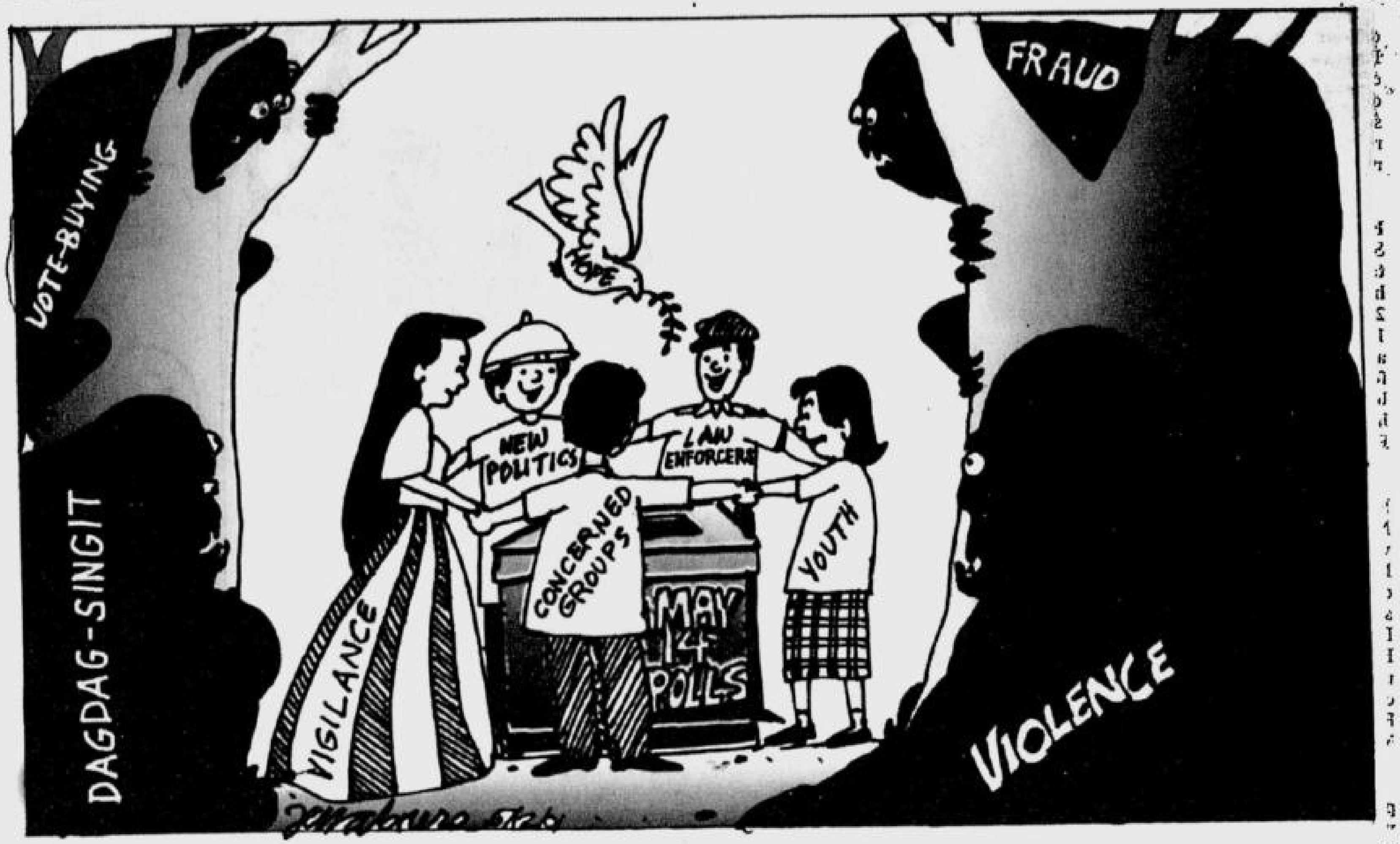

Truth is negative

EDITORIALS

THE 2001 elections will be remembered in history as the first to run what are known as opposing advertisements or negative commercials. Many lament the advent of negative campaigning (a staple of the election campaigns of older democracies such as the United States and the United Kingdom). Is our still-nascent democratic culture ready for it?

Ready or not, the future is here.

A week ago, the 13-0 Movement launched a series of TV, radio and print advertisements that essentially showed unflattering footage or stills of four opposition candidates, each advertisement ending with the question, "*Iboboto ninyo pa ba sila* (Are you still going to vote for them)?"

Edgardo Angara, a senatorial candidate of the Puwersa ng Masa and executive secretary under deposed President Joseph Estrada, was the first to react, blasting the attack advertisements for allegedly violating truth in advertising.

Nonsense. The advertisements may be too aggressive for some Filipino tastes, but they are not untruthful. In fact, there is more truth in these advertisements than in some of the campaign materials the voting public has had to endure.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has been running for reelection as a self-styled champion of the Constitution. In her print advertisements, she even mentions the fact that she has written several law books on constitutional topics. Well, Santiago may have studied the Constitution, but she has certainly not lived it.

Her conduct during the nationally televised impeachment trial was a shame: trampling on the human rights of three innocent spectators, lowering the public's esteem for lawyers by insinuating they are motivated primarily by money, and in the end voting to suppress evidence. None of these can be reasonably described as championing the Constitution; indeed, they constituted an attack on it.

The footage the negative advertisements showed is incontrovertible evidence that she did egg on the agitated crowd at the Edsa Shrine to march on Malacañang ("I'm ready! Are you ready?"). Her camp may not like it, but there it is. Sometimes, the truth is just plain ugly.

Sen. Gringo Honasan has been campaigning for reelection on a platform of peace. The former coup leader may have enjoyed amnesty under the law, but there are many Filipinos who still remember those dark days of the late 1980s when our newly restored democracy was held hostage by an incompetent but still dangerous band of military adventurists. For them, a campaign slogan of Kapayapaan (Peace) is a bad joke, an Orwellian attempt to substitute a motherhood statement for the messy, deadly truth.

Like his protégé, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile also voted against the opening of the second envelope during the impeachment trial. It was a vote that did not have to take place, but it was obviously scripted. As soon as the majority floor leader moved for a division of the house, Enrile immediately seconded the motion, thus effectively preventing Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., the presiding officer, from ruling on the motion. Does this sound like the act of a man who bills himself in his campaign advertisements as "Bantay ng Bayan" or the nation's watchdog?

In his speeches before the crowd at the Edsa Shrine, Enrile is caught on tape encouraging the restive masses to surround Malacañang. Now Enrile has filed a suit before the Commission on Elections, charging that the negative advertisements quoted him out of context. But his legal strategy is in itself revealing. He does not deny having said the inflammatory words.

Hypocrisy

WHICH brings us to the central question: What is the difference between saying negative things about the competition before a crowd of supporters, and broadcasting those very same statements? Nothing. Those who now complain about negative campaigning are engaged in the continuing offense of political hypocrisy.

At every *miting de avance* throughout the country tonight, the last day of the campaign, candidates will attack their opponents for real and imagined wrongs. Their supporters will not mind. In fact, they will look forward to what is quaintly known in our political lexicon as "*bomba*." But repackage their statements in dramatic 30-seconders for showing on television, and all of a sudden they are transformed into unfair campaigning.

Let us not vote against ourselves

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

AS we go to the polls on Monday, let us remember how foolishly we voted before.

In 1998, we elected a president on a wave of enthusiasm over his battle cry of "Erap *para sa mahirap*." At his inaugural, he promised, "*Walang kamag-anak, walang kaibigan!*" and warned, "*Huwag ninyo akong subukan!*" The nation exulted over the hope of a better future although there were some who were skeptical.

Evidence now shows that barely two months into his term, Joseph Estrada was already receiving millions of pesos in *jueteng* payola. His impeachment trial revealed more incredible offenses, including the plunder of public funds concealed in various secret bank accounts.

Despite the efforts of his defenders to prevent the disclosure of more damning evidence against him, the clamor grew for his resignation. His trial was transferred from the Senate to what later became Edsa II. Estrada was unceremoniously evicted from Malacañang and replaced by the Vice President as his constitutional successor.

All this was triggered by the overt support of the 11 senators who conspired to prevent the opening of the mysterious second envelope. This would have uncovered more telling evidence of the avarice Estrada attempted to cover under an assumed identity. Its suppression eventually tolled the bell for his miserable misrule.

Among those who supported him in the Senate are a former television comedian, a basketball star, a retired movie star and several members strongly suspected of election irregularities. One of the "*balato* twins" scandalized the Senate by dancing a victory jig for Erap. Three of the notorious Craven Eleven who so outraged the nation now have the nerve to ask us to reelect them.

It is obvious that when the electorate chose these senators—and Joseph Estrada himself—it committed a colossal mistake. The disgraceful record of these officials does not only condemn them. It also warns us against another careless exercise of our suffrages that may further enfeeble our government.

The candidates now identified with the fallen Erap should be totally rejected for defending his crooked and bumbling governance. Even those who did not directly try to exonerate him in the Senate should be equally dismissed for their guilty association with their unrepentant leader.

The election of Erap's apologists will give them a license to emulate his disdain for public office as a public trust. It will mean a repetition of the shameful and shameless administration that inevitably led to their idol's disgraceful downfall.

The Supreme Court has affirmed his replacement, which has also resulted in the loss of his presidential immunity. Plain citizen Joseph Estrada now faces indictments for plunder and other serious crimes. Plunder is a non-bailable offense that will keep him in prison even before his certain conviction.

In a bid to restore his name, Estrada has declared that the coming elections will be a referendum on his right to remain president of the Philippines. He would appeal the Supreme Court decision to the people as the ultimate tribunal. The victory of his candidates will mean, he says, his own vindication as the de jure head of our government.

That wretched pretense has no valid legal basis, but it must nonetheless be refuted. And this can be done by giving his candidates a resounding and total defeat at the polls on Monday. It's time to put an end to the myth of Erap as the idol of the poor he has in fact exploited. The nation will have the opportunity at last to directly reject Joseph the Deceiver once and for all.

That is what we should have done with Ferdinand Marcos long ago. If we vacillate again, still another demagogue will linger among the shadowy scoundrels in the dark pages of our history.

The identification of the Puwersa ng Masa candidates with Estrada betrays their dangerous orientation. Loyalty is a virtue but not when offered to rascals. Now they're denying their evil hand in the Malacañang raid—when they goaded the poor to riot, then disowned the very rampage they had provoked with money, drugs and gin.

Fortunately, the alternatives offered against those who would resurrect Estrada's infamy are worthy of our confidence.

Franklin Drilon, Juan Flavier, Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Sergio Osmeña III are among the senators who listened to the bidding of their conscience and voted against Erap. In the House, Manuel Villar fast-tracked the impeachment resolution that started it all. Joker Arroyo ably led the prosecution panel that bared the enormity of Estrada's transgressions.

The other candidates of the People Power Coalition are equally deserving. Wigberto Tañada is an unbending nationalist and Ernesto Herrera a staunch defender of labor. Winnie Monsod intimidated the usually feisty Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who dared not accept her challenge to a debate. Liwayway Chato could be our tax expert in the Senate. Obet Pagdanganan should be an incumbent senator now had he not been cheated in 1998.

Think twice before voting for entertainers. The only one who has turned out well is Loren Legarda, but then she had impressive intellectual qualifications to begin with. The others have bombed. A baritone voice is good enough for reading the idiot board but not a ghostwritten privilege speech in English. (And what if the interpellation is in English?)

Let us be done with presumptuous people who think that the adoration of the unthinking *bakya* crowd gives them the right to pollute the public service.

Suffrage is such a valuable right to be wasted on charlatans and blackmailers and other persons without principles. Let us not forget our historic struggle for the opportunity to live as freemen and manifest our sovereign will through the inviolate ballot. We should learn from the foolishness of the past elections. This time, let us not vote *again* against ourselves.

Our elite democracy

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

YES, those who are old enough to remember have seen it all before, and the younger ones have read about it in history books. The bloody Tanggulan and Sakdal uprisings in the 1930s, the Hukbalahap occupying San Pablo and threatening Manila in 1950, the New People's Army, the Estrada years and Edsa III—each national crisis has revealed the yawning gap in attitudes and beliefs between the well-to-do and the great majority, the rural and urban poor. And as each crisis has threatened not only the comforts of the elite but the very fabric of Philippine society, political and Church leaders, columnists and ordinary citizens have expressed dismay over the marginalization of the poor, and insisted that something must be done to bridge the gap, both economic and cultural, within our society.

But "a strange thing happened on the way to the Forum." Once each crisis had passed, the promises were quietly watered down and things returned to "normal." To take only one example: following Edsa I, the 1987 Constitution in Article XIII decrees that "The Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social, economic and political inequalities, and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good." This is followed by sections on labor, agrarian and natural resources reform, urban land reform and housing, health and women.

Fine words. But then what happened? Having approved the new Constitution by a massive majority, the nation felt that it had done its duty. In the congressional elections of 1987, the traditional elite reasserted its power, and once Congress had assembled, the landowners' lobby emasculated a relatively mild agrarian reform bill. The other progressive provisions of the Constitution were treated in much the same fashion. The result? Very little has changed since 1987.

In fact, our system of elite democracy has not benefited the poor from the time the Americans chose to support the *ilustrados* economically and then politically, down to the present. Economic data show a regularly increasing concentration of income during the 1990s which was accentuated during the hard times after 1997; between 1997 and 1998 the top 10 percent gained both absolutely and relatively while all others lost. Moreover, in 1998 the wealthiest 10 percent of families, with an average income of P520,928, had more than twice the income of the second 10 percent and 35.5 times that of the poorest 10 percent.

Rather than cite more statistics at this point, let me recall a personal experience. On the Sunday after Edsa I, in 1986, I was on my way out for Mass at Payatas. Passing the *tambakan*, I noticed a group of children, aged perhaps 10 or 12, working the dump. I thought to myself, "Thank God, that obscenity is finally on its way out." But today, 15 years later, there are more children than ever working the dump, and no one knows how many bodies are buried forever under the trashslide.

All of this is rooted in a concentration of landholding, capital, credit, political power, education and access to government resources, ranging from low-cost loans to juicy contracts, in the hands of a few families. Economic power, political power, and when called for, the power of the gun, have been mutually reinforcing, as Alfred McCoy has pointed out in the introduction to his "An Anarchy of Families." On a more genteel level, Paul Hutchcroft in "Booty Capitalism: the Politics of Banking in the Philippines" describes how an oligarchy of powerful families has controlled the banking sector since early in the American period, for its own advantage and at the expense of the public and the nation.

Little has changed despite the outbreaks of social unrest. And it is not as if we did not know how to bring change about. The World Bank's World Development Report 2000-2001, on the basis of 60,000 interviews with poor people in 60 countries, provides a very useful analysis of the reality of poverty as experienced by the poor, and concrete proposals for reducing it. The experience of poverty is seen as having three elements: lack of opportunity (land, capital, credit, health, education etc.); lack of security (no resources to fall back on in times of illness, natural disaster, loss of job, demolition of one's house); powerlessness (the inability to change the situation).

The study offers concrete suggestions for addressing all three of these elements. The rub is that addressing them will require a large dose of political will on the part of the government, and a willingness to sacrifice—initially by paying higher taxes—on the part of the non-poor.

But which candidate for public office would run on a platform of higher taxes?

Fearless forecasts

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

BY NOW everyone has his or her fearless forecast of the results of Monday's elections. The People Power Coalition's battle cry of 13-0 is reverberating across the nation, but what will the outcome be like?

I caught former Speaker Joe de Venecia last Thursday on the phone a few hours before he went to Pangasinan where he is running unopposed. De Venecia expects to get as much as 90 percent of the votes in his district, which would put him in contention for the speakership. I asked him for his forecast in the senatorial fight, and he opined in typical *nakakabuhay ng patay* manner, 12-1 or even 13-0 and at worst, 11-2.

* * *

In a recent phone conversation with PPC's Ernesto "Boy" Herrera who wants to return to the Senate, he told me that everywhere he went people told him they were voting 13-0. "It's incredible," he said. But his own forecast is 12-1 or at worst, 11-2. Herrera is confident he would be in the Magic 13 because of his command votes in the Visayas and Mindanao, and the big TUCP vote that will go for him. He pointed out that the Visayan-speaking bloc comprises about 26 percent of the entire population, and has three senatorial candidates from the PPC: Frank Drilon, Serge Osmeña and himself.

* * *

I talked to Herrera and De Venecia before the release of the results of the latest SWS survey, taken May 4-7 and commissioned by the Manila Standard, which showed eight PPC winners and four from the Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) and one independent (Noli de Castro). According to this survey, the 11th to 16th slots were filled by opposition candidates Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Santiago, Gregorio Honasan, Loi Estrada, Orly Mercado and Panfilo Lacson who were not "statistically distinguishable." These opposition candidates edged out PPC candidates Bobby Tañada, Ernesto Herrera, Obet Pagdanganan and Winnie Monsod, as well as PnM's Dong Puno.

* * *

I'm certain there will be many who would dispute these SWS findings, especially since the survey was taken after the May 1 storming of Malacañang, and as a result, people expected a strong backlash against the opposition. The survey results, however, look as though the Palace assault never took place at all.

This columnist personally finds a number of SWS assertions quite questionable. For instance, the latest survey said that the PPC-PnM's margin narrowed in North and Central Luzon from 8-5 to 7-6. But it should be noted that the Palace assault happened in Manila, which is adjacent to Central Luzon, so it is difficult to think that voters there would go for the PnM after the riots. The survey also showed that the PPC-PnM margin narrowed in the middle-to-upper classes, the A, B and C crowds, resulting in Herrera and Pagdanganan being edged out by Angara and Mercado. This is difficult to believe since the upper classes are the ones most vocal in denouncing the pro-Erap rally at Edsa and the Palace assault.

* * *

Herrera said he did not believe in surveys, preferring to go by cold reason. For instance, he noted that most candidates in the PPC lineup have solid regional bases, while most of the PnM people don't have any. He pointed out that Liway Chato and Joker Arroyo would emerge No. 1 in Bicolandia, with Chato, who is a Vinzons from Camarines Norte, one of the most respected names in Philippine history, possibly even beating Arroyo there. On the other hand, said Herrera, Pagdanganan has a solid command vote in Central Luzon, while Tañada has the entire Southern Tagalog vote. By contrast, says Herrera, PnM candidates like Puno and Mercado don't have regional bases.

* * *

Herrera mentioned other important factors. For instance, Puno, Mercado and Monsod may not have regional bases but they have their TV constituencies. Angara has his UP alumni network as well as the Sigma Rho Fraternity network, which is also pushing Drilon's presidential plans for 2004. On the other hand, Pagdanganan has the cooperatives across the country pushing for him, while Chato has the Couples for Christ as her additional base. Herrera's TUCP is a big asset. For instance, almost all of Negros Occidental's 46 sugar haciendas have TUCP laborers. Herrera stressed that his labor allies have helped him in so many ways, including pasting up his posters, so that "in the poster war, I'm clearly ahead of everyone."

* * *

I got hold of Speaker Sonny Belmonte, the lead mayoral candidate in Quezon City, during a sortie and he was quite confident of winning. Belmonte's tack is not to hit the other power blocs in the city, such as the Mathays, but to concentrate on selling himself as a city manager and administrator who will bring Quezon's dream city to greater heights. This is not difficult to do, since Belmonte has had enormous experience in running the GSIS and the House of Representatives. I think Belmonte will make a great mayor, especially if he sticks to his pledge not to put his relatives in City Hall.

I asked Belmonte about the congressional race in Quezon City's third district between Maite Defensor and Sen. Nikki Coseteng. Maite is running under Belmonte's PPC ticket and from what he told me, she's doing well and Coseteng could suffer an upset. In fact, I heard from the grapevine that the *senadora* is now feeling so threatened that one day she threw a tantrum in her office, destroying a computer. She felt that her leaders were not pushing hard enough to make her win. "*Pera ko lang yata ang gusto ninyo*," Coseteng was said to have complained.

* * *

Coseteng is up against a decidedly negative vote in her district, which is fueled by her closeness to Estrada, her negative vote in the impeachment trial and perceptions of her arrogance. On the other hand, Maite's big brother, Housing Chair Mike Defensor, who retains a lot of goodwill in the district he served for two terms, is quietly helping Maite's campaign. The 30-year-old bachelorette began as Mike's kid sister but now she has emerged as her own person. Maite, one of six children of my good friend, newsman Mat Defensor, is a UP-trained economist who did post-graduate work at Harvard University. She went into banking and also served in Rene de Villa's campaign.

The battle between Maite Defensor and Nikki Coseteng is a David vs Goliath fight and among those being avidly watched.

* * *

Among the professional groups participating in the party-list elections this coming Monday is the Association of Builders, Consultants and Designers (ABCD). This is an umbrella organization of professionals in the construction industry, as well as workers such as heavy equipment operators, masons, welders, electricians, etc. ABCD is running on the platform of working for the welfare of the 2.5 million construction industry workers. Among the five ABCD nominees is my good friend from UP days, Rogelio M. Murga, an engineer and vice chair of Engineering Equipment Inc.

Mothers in politics

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

MOTHER'S Day isn't until tomorrow. But since, by the rules of the Fair Elections Act, the media can no longer even mention individual candidates lest this be construed as either promoting or attacking their candidacy, I'll tell you now about a young mother who's also running for office.

Her name is June Pavillar Castro and she's running for councilor in her native Silay City. June also happens to be six months pregnant with her second child. So what is a young expectant mother, whose eldest daughter Jaja is 6 or 7, doing in the heat of a campaign? Answering the call for greater involvement of women in politics, that's what!

June is one of a bunch of hardy women from Negros Occidental who've made the leap from the world of NGOs to politics. She is the executive director of DAWN, one of the first women's groups set up in Bacolod, and is the chair of the Bacolod chapter of Pilipina. Together with other women like Celia Flor, a candidate for councilor in Bacolod City, Andrea Lizares-Si, Doods Locsin and Victorias City councilor Mary Ann Duran-Diño, June is also quite active in the Abanse! Pinay campaign in the province. In 1998, Abanse! Pinay came out first among the party-list groups in Bacolod and second in all of Negros. This time, there's even more at stake, as Andrea is the party's third nominee.

Knowing that she would be campaigning anyway for Abanse! Pinay, June decided she might as well turn her advocacy into action. So even if she's awaiting the birth of another child, she readily accepted an offer to join the ticket of the Kauswagan ini sang Silaynon sa Milenyo (though as an independent) and run for councilor under incumbent councilor Linda Caja who is running for mayor, with Warlito Go as vice mayor.

Her circumstances may be unusual, but June joins a growing league of women who're defying the odds and going against social expectations just to prove that women have a place in politics. And not only that, they're out to prove that women, just by their presence, can change the nature and conduct of politics as we know it.

* * *

THAT is one of the main reasons Abanse! Pinay came into being in 1997, a few months before the 1998 elections where the party-list system would be tried for the very first time.

Women are always expected to clean up after men, to sweep and stitch, heal and console after men have made a mess by themselves. It is no accident, I believe, that the two (genuine) people power exercises resulted in the assumption of the presidency by two women. (And no accident, too, that unreconstructed male chauvinists should try to bring their terms to a premature end.) Maybe a nation after a political upheaval needs a woman's healing touch.

But what if women were present in critical numbers in politics? Would there be fewer messes needing to be cleaned up? Would the quality of governance improve markedly? Would there be less corruption, more honesty, less intrigue, more consensus?

* * *

WOMEN in politics and public service have yet to prove conclusively that they are more honest and hardworking or even less quarrelsome than their male counterparts.

The first fairly high level bureaucrat convicted of violating the law on plunder is a woman official of the BIR. And we have had enough of the battle-axe ready to jump out of an airplane or shoot it out with police. So much for women's supposedly placid and non-confrontational nature.

But there are compelling reasons for women to overcome their reluctance and dive into the "messy" swirl of politics. First, there is the matter of simple justice. Shouldn't half the population enjoy commensurate representation in all levels of government? And yet by all estimates, women comprise just over 10 percent of all elective and appointive officials.

Second is the quality of our democracy. How can it be said that a democracy is truly representative when the views and decisions of half of its constituents are not adequately voiced? No matter how sympathetic and open-minded they may be, male officials cannot presume to claim that they are adequate stand-ins for women. Men and women simply have gone through different life experiences and thus have different priorities in life. Only women can truly speak for other women.

Third, there is the matter of waste of human resources. What a waste to keep half of a country's human resource underutilized and untapped simply because culture and tradition dictate that women have no place in politics! Being neophytes, women have the potential to transform politics. Having little experience in wheeling and dealing, power tripping and corruption, women could set their own style and show the way. But only if they refuse to join the "old boys' club."

* * *

FOR THESE and other reasons, I believe it's a blessing that women like June, a young mother who could be excused if she chose to devote her time to raising her young children, choose to tread the unfamiliar path of politics.

Everywhere I have gone in the past few months, talking to women about Abanse! Pinay and why it is important not just to seat three women as women's representatives in Congress, but also to prove the presence and power of the women's vote, I have found countless sources of inspiration. Many of them are young mothers like June; others are like Linda Caja, June's mayoralty candidate, who have channeled their energies to public service now that their children are grown. But all of them have heard the message: It's about time. It's the right time for women.

As a 1970s poster declared: Women unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains! *Abanse! mga Pinay*!

El Puente Grande

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

IT took more than half a century before the Spanish colonial government decided it was time to start construction on a bridge to span the Pasig River. Not that there was a lack of transportation facilities since there were barges and *balanghais* and *cascos* and *bancas* bringing whatever the city needed. Still there was no way of getting across the river on foot or on horseback. Actually traffic had escalated to such an extent due to the Chinese Parian market in Arroceros that the Exchequer wanted to regulate it.

Both Gov. Luis Perez de Dasmariñas (son of the ill-fated Gomez) and the *cabildo*, or municipal government, wanted to control the traffic and were at loggerheads over turf. The governor jumped the gun by creating a right of passage over the bridge and assigning the funds from the lease to the Caja Communidad de los Sangleys for the construction and maintenance of the Hospital Chino de San Gabriel on the right banks of the Pasig River. The *cabildo* averred that the concession to the Chinese to maintain the hospital was nothing but a legal maneuver since the Chinese weren't crazy about Western-style medicine and preferred their own traditional remedies.

The next governor, Niño de Tabora, initiated the construction of a bridge, utilizing the taxes imposed on those crossing the river. The *cabildo* continued to complain, to no avail, that by tradition and right this was their jurisdiction and that it was the city that was building the bridge at the cost of P30,000.

Despite the squabbling, the bridge was finished toward the end of 1629 and the first month of 1630. The name of the designer is long forgotten, but it can be concluded that it was constructed under the direction of an expert assisted by master carpenters, masons and stonecutters—Filipinos, Spanish and Chinese experienced in construction. The great volume of water had to be dammed and diverted to the canals on both sides of the delta so that the foundation of huge tree stumps used to support the first platform of wood could be installed. The structure made great use of wood and only at a later date were the primitive stumps changed to cut stones and the dams perfected.

On more than one occasion, the foundations were described as linked together (*enlazados*) and the linkages must have been strong enough to last more than 300 years to the last quarter of the 19th century serving as a base for the modern construction.

Proof of this durability was the earthquake of 1645 and the succeeding aftershocks. By this time, the *cabildo* had finally won jurisdiction over the span and it reported that repairs were carried out on the Church of San Andres, the Ermitas of San Anton and San Bautista, the Municipal Hall, the bakeshop, the slaughterhouse, the meat market, Puente Grande of the principal river, that of Maitubig and the canals of the Parian, the facades of the walls, the clock tower. It also said that it had finished clearing the streets of stones, lime and tiles from the ruins of the earthquake and demolished walls that threatened to fall. All this cost P130,024, 4 *tomines* and 9 *gramos*.

Another earthquake in 1771 damaged the bridge and destroyed the churches of San Miguel and Nuestra Señora de Guia. A wall of the Recoletos had to be removed, San Agustin needed a new roof and repairs had to be made on the convent. The church of San Francisco was closed, its main altar threatened with ruin. All the surrounding houses needed repairs.

Although there are no reports mentioning repairs done on the bridge, it can be assumed that it must also have suffered damage. But it was not until 1814 that the foundations were reinforced, stone arches and a platform of masonry installed and new dams made. This cost a total of P28,371, excluding the P3,000 paid to the engineer, Ildefonso de Aragon, and another P5,000 spent on a temporary span that had to be built to allow movement across the river.

Aragon's work consisted of covering the primitive stumps with stone and transforming the slopes of its 11 arches that were of different sizes owing to the different distances between the pillars and in installing over the arches a pavement of *piedra China* (granite stones) bordered by posts of common stones.

Between 1824 and 1859, additional repairs were done. The stone posts were replaced with wood and marble benches were placed for people to rest and admire the view from the bridge.

In the decade of the 1850s, the bridge lost its uniqueness with the construction of Puente Colgante, the first hanging bridge and the second to span the Pasig River, uniting the populous town of Quiapo and the landing beside the Quinta Market to the south side of the river. The new bridge incorporated advanced technology from Europe. It was constructed with imported English steel and inaugurated in January 1852.

Puente Grande became known as Puente Viejo. The final reconstruction was initiated in 1869 when six of its eight arches were changed to stone while the fourth and fifth were replaced with steel. Imbert & Co. of Paris fabricated the iron works, including 18 elegant candelabras. Inaugurated in January 1875, Gov. Jose Malcampo rechristened it Puente de España.

During the first quarter of the American regime, the bridge that was located further upstream was torn down and a new one named Jones was constructed on its present location.

A solo act

Lucille Vergara

DEAR Tatay,

I am sorry. I did not mean to say that those who are supporting the ousted leader are ignorant. Misinformed, maybe. I forgot that you are one of those people who helped him win the presidential election.

It was probably the tiny deposit in your bank account that made you vote for him. But then you have always been an avid movie fan of his.

I used to fall asleep when we watched his movies even though you were often shouting warnings at him as if he could hear you. You hated to see him wounded and beaten up by the villains. You probably felt the same way when, in real life, he was put in jail.

YOUNGBLOOD

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

Without doubt, you would have wanted to be at Mendiola last May 1 if you were not in the province. I hate to say this, but I would have hit you before you could step out of the door. But I can assure you that I would have hit you only once, unlike some of the protesters who were dragged on the street and beaten up by policemen. Some even ended up with bullets in their legs.

I am aware of the hint of disappointment in your voice when we discuss politics. You have raised me and put me in school through hours of toil under the sun. Doors have been slammed shut when you tried to borrow money for my tuition or board and lodging. I was a success story among your friends—until Edsa II.

But that was my story. It was when I heard my own voice joining a louder one. It was a cry I should have had explained before our differences reached Edsa III.

For 17 years I listened to the only voice that had the right to be heard in our family—yours. But the distance between us tuned out that voice and I had the chance to hear other voices. It was a dream to hear different things at once. A powerful chorus broke the monotony inside my head. And right now, I am attempting a solo act.

I am not trying to mock your opinions. Erap probably had good intentions, but he was lousy at financial management and worse at being a leader. He portrayed a principled poor person in the movies and claimed to be so in reality. Yet, his mansions are a stark contrast to the tiny shack we live in. His drinking sprees and womanizing could not have lifted the morale of the poor. He shook hands and ate with the poor, but he never bothered to think what the taste of good food can do to hungry souls after a feast. He offered us a bite and kept the rest for himself. It was only right that his term lasted not much longer than the movies he starred in. The credits started rolling before he knew it.

Tatay, I'll be coming home after my summer classes. I will not be there to watch while you cast your vote in the coming elections. But please remember that actors are paid by the producers to do an act. No matter how small our bank account may be, we still pay for our leaders to do their jobs properly. We don't owe them; they owe us. And when they fail us, it's only fair that they go to jail.

I pray that the May elections will turn out to be a feel-good movie after all.

Lucille Vergara, 19, studies at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. Her Tatay, a Marcos loyalist, thinks she went to Edsa in January because she had been paid to do so.

My first elections

Karl F. Cabilao

I HAD the privilege of casting my first vote in 1998. It was quite an exciting and fulfilling experience. After years of wondering about what went on in the voting precincts, I finally found out first-hand why my Mom would come home grumbling about the long queues and the heat inside the precincts.

The public school where the voting was being done was only a stone's throw away from our house. I could get there after a few minutes of walking under the blistering heat of the summer sun. Campaign leaflets were scattered all over the street. Posters of candidates were plastered on walls and banners and streamers were hanging across the streets.

People crowded the streets. Some of them were coming from the polling place, with their forefingers colored purple. A few others were distributing leaflets and sample ballots in a last-ditch effort to woo voters to their side. The atmosphere was no different from the fiesta we had celebrated a few days earlier.

During the 1992 national elections, I helped my parents make the list of candidates they were voting for. Honestly, most of the names on the list were picked on the basis of name recall since many candidates, especially for the Senate, were show-biz personalities. Later, my parents had a lot of reasons to regret their choices. But they would console themselves by saying they made the right choice for president.

In the 1998 elections, we dispensed with the *kodigo*. But a few days before election day, we had a serious discussion about who deserved our vote.

After waiting in line for several minutes, I finally got hold of my first ballot and wrote down my choices for various positions. Now, I must admit that some of my choices turned out to be bad. One of them would show the whole nation that she is better as a sexy dancer than a lawmaker. But then you can't really know much about candidates during the campaign. It's often a case of trial and error. The problem is if voters make a mistake, the nation is stuck with the official for three or even six years.

Indeed, Filipinos have a short memory. It was only a few months ago that they have vent their fury against some devious *trapos* during Edsa II, but now they are shaking the hands of the same politicians and allowing themselves to be fooled again. The poor, in particular, continue to be mesmerized by their movie idols, who they believe would bring their action scenes and tough-guy persona into government and convert their offices into their personal theaters.

I hope that this time we voters will use our minds. Mere name recall will not give us the kind of leaders our country needs. Money is not everything, and it should not influence our vote. The record of each candidate, his words and his deeds, his vision for the country and his attitude toward his constituents must be carefully examined.

In the coming elections, I'll try my best to arrive at an informed decision. I've kept track of the events that unfold each day and I know more or less who deserves my vote. I have picked up some lessons from my first elections. I hope every voter will cast his vote with the well-being of the nation in mind.

Karl F. Cabilao, 22, is an architecture major at the University of San Carlos Technological Center in Cebu City. He writes for the youth section of one of Cebu's leading newspapers.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

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PPI

Choice between 'mobocracy' and democracy

AS a peaceful, unarmed citizen without any hidden agenda, I welcomed the declaration by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of a state of rebellion, as a crime-prevention and common-sense emergency measure. It was a choice between "mobocracy" and democracy.

After all, the primary and first duty of government is to protect the life and limb of the people. This bold and decisive action of the President deserves the support of all peace-loving citizens of this country.

Contrary to what some sectors say that the President's action would create a bad international image for the country, let me say that the President's action sent a clear message to the people and the international community that the government is in full control of the situation and will never allow anarchy and violence to prevail in this country. *Kailan ba gumanda ang ating* international image *noong panahon ni* Erap?

No law was violated by the President. What President Macapagal did was perfectly in accord with law and she did it to preserve the state and to maintain and keep the peace.

I, too, have complaints against the government. I, too, join cause-oriented groups in the streets to express disappointment over certain government policies, action or inaction or to advocate several social-oriented causes, like gun control in public places. While marching and demonstrating, I've never advocated armed violence or uttered seditious acts or incited people to commit seditious acts, or to rise publicly and take up arms against the government.

I believe in social change through active nonviolence. Peace in this country and the world can never be achieved if governments, leaders and peoples continue to pursue the peace that the world gives based on the principle of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

I, too, believe in peaceful assembly as a constitutional right. The government saw to it that this right was not violated in the so-called Edsa III rallies. As the participants were enjoying the right of peaceful assembly, they, however, went overboard.

Seeds of sedition were being sown among the crowd by unscrupulous politicians whose greed for power and ambition were so evident. The rally participants wantonly desecrated by word and deed the Edsa Shrine, a holy ground for Catholics.

The government could have stepped in to disperse the crowd, but it did not. That was a prudent decision. If that was not "maximum, super and mega" tolerance, what is? We couldn't have asked for more.

When the rally participants started marching to Malacañang and stormed the Palace gates, the President had no choice but to defend the state. And again while the government forces were defending the state, they were doing so with maximum tolerance.

This riotous event resulted in injuries to several soldiers, policemen, rally participants, newsmen and innocent civilians. It resulted in the destruction of private and public property. We know that emotions were running high.

Let's stop legal hairsplitting. Rebellion, sedition, inciting to sedition, insurrection, all have something in common: the use of arms and other instruments of violence against the government.—**NANDY PACHECO, Nature/Gunless Society, Greenmeadows, QC**

Who were the victims of Labor Day violence?

ALL of us have just recently gone through critical days of darkness. We still bear the burden of having a highly factionalized nation. Loss of property and lives, reduced to mere statistics, leads to the big question: Who was the victim?

We witnessed how God's house, the Mary, Queen of Peace Shrine on Edsa, was profaned in the last days of April 2001. Is it coincidence that with the advent of the month of May, the respect due to our Lady should be restored? The month of May heralds the month of floral offerings for the Blessed Mother, praying of the rosary, and performing acts of love and mercy for our brothers and sisters.

No blame-laying can justify the ugly violence that marred the feast of St. Joseph on May 1, 2001. St Joseph is the Patron of the Universal Church and the Patron of Workers whose apt representation of the ordinary Filipino workers makes clear the message that the basic needs of the laboring class have to be delivered. But that violence should happen on Labor Day, when all forces contributing to the outburst of emotions got exposed, merits self-introspection among all of us. Let us stop blaming each other. All of us are guilty of this turn of events.

Let us ponder the significance of events that ushered in the month of May. Let us, as a people of God, unite our efforts in combating the forces of evil that keep us apart from our heavenly counterparts. Let us, this month of May and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, be instruments of the necessary and concrete changes in our country. Let us hold our brethren, regardless of class or creed, and start the long journey to Christ-like perfection.—**FR. RONALD M. MACALE, parish priest, Parish of the Lord of Divine Mercy, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City**

Cop who would not fire at mob

THE VIDEO footage of the anti-riot policeman being banged up by the ruthless mob has left an indelible mark in my mind.

The footage showed the policeman down, alone, with a gun in his hand pointed at the approaching mob. But he never fired at the mob even to protect himself. A man was shown apparently trying to hold back the mob which was armed with thick wooden planks. One of the mad rioters took off the policeman's helmet, upon which the others pounced on him and beat him to a pulp.

The emotional scars of indignation in my mind will be a constant reminder of man's inhumanity to man. The mob was like a pack of wild, hungry hyenas closing in for the kill. In fact, they were more animals than men.

Then, during the dispersal, there was a video footage of a woman shouting, "*Wala ba kayong awa*?" How ironic! The scene made me even more indignant.

I suggest that the footage of the riot policeman being mobbed and clubbed be shown to Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile et al., over and over again to serve as a gory and sorry reminder of the consequences of their inflammatory tirades.—**MARICHU C. VELASCO, 15 Apo St., Hacienda Heights Village, Marikina City**

Put a hex on tree murderers

THE ONLY way we can put a stop to the murder of trees is to threaten to put a hex on whoever are responsible for cutting them down.

I can prove that this works. When a greedy governor of my province had the centuries-old acacia trees lining both sides of the 25-kilometer road between two towns cut down, I heard that the old folks who were afraid to oppose her, (this was during martial law), put a hex on her. A few years later, she lost all her dollar deposits in a Hong Kong bank and got sick. She died a lonely woman.

When our clan had a reunion in our town recently, the large ugly stumps of the poor acacia trees were still there—silent witnesses of man's inhumanity to man and nature.—**CONSUELO D. SISON, 10 Alpha Rd., Alpha Village, Capitol Hills, Quezon City**

Jobs for PNP and AFP families

THIS is a reminder that the country owes a lasting debt of gratitude to the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel who put their lives on the line in defense of our democratic government. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should stop any further celebration of victory until these men and women have received their due.

There's enough evidence to suggest that the majority of the PNP and AFP personnel are honest and dedicated public servants. For there's no better proof for that than risking their lives for their country. They don't ask much except enough food for their family, better clothing for themselves and decent homes for their children.

If there are PNP personnel involved in illegal activities, for instance, it's only a small exception to the majority. The paradox where people who are supposed to enforce the law violate the law springs from an acute imbalance between what society demands and the resources available for an adequate response. It is a fact that most PNP personnel involved in crimes are driven not by criminal inclination but by a normal human desire to keep in step with society's demands typified by the following situations:

1. With a family of six (his wife, four children and himself) and gross salary of P17,000 a month, a policeman's quality of life is below the poverty line. He's no better than the jobless because he has needs that ordinary workers don't have.

2. Faced with the problem of trying to make both ends meet, a policeman faces still bigger problems. He has to address the problems of the community. He is asked to mediate family quarrels. He or his wife is often asked to be a sponsor at baptisms and weddings. These social demands become an irresistible force that drives him into crime.

3. A policeman's difficulties are compounded as his children reach school age. Then after finishing their studies, the children cannot find jobs. Worse, they get married, while unemployed and continue to depend on the family's meager income. These additional mouths to feed worsen a policeman's difficulties and drive him deeper into illegal activities.

One solution is a private sector initiative to generate employment for qualified dependents of the PNP and AFP personnel. It's a big relief to a breadwinner if his income is augmented by other family members' earnings from productive employment. The pressure that drives a policeman, for instance, into crime becomes less compelling. He becomes more careful for fear of bringing a social stigma on his family.

This employment-generation program should be a cooperative effort of the Departments of Interior and Local Government and National Defense with business and industry organizations such as the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Makati Business Club, etc. The private organizations should pledge to give priority to qualified dependents of the PNP and AFP personnel in filling job vacancies.

The success of this initiative is assured if a person of such stature as former President Cory Aquino would head the organization that will implement the program with a board of trustees composed of business leaders. President Macapagal might well be its honorary chair with the interior and national defense secretaries as co-chairpersons.—**FRANK WENCESLAO, 375 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City**

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The WORLD

Grief, anger sweep Ghana after tragedy

ACCRA—Grief and anger swept Ghana on Thursday as thousands of relatives sought victims of a stampede in an Accra football stadium, which killed some 130 people after police fired tear gas on a group of rioting fans.

President John Kufuor held an emergency meeting to look into whether police overreaction had sparked Wednesday's disaster—the worst sports tragedy in Africa and the fourth such incident to rock the continent in a month.

A spokesperson for FIFA, soccer's world governing body, said in Paris the tragedy would not affect plans to hold the 2010 World Cup in Africa.

A visibly stunned Kufuor said in a national address over television that anyone convicted in connection with disaster would face "the full rigors of the law."

He also announced a three-day mourning period during which flags will be flown at half-mast, and said all the medical expenses of the injured would be borne by the state.

The president said a probe had been launched into the incident, and asked Ghanaians to contain widespread anger against the police.

"I am aware of the anger so many of you feel about the conduct of some policemen at the stadium last night," he said. "I am . . . appealing to all of you to show restraint and calm."

Troops were deployed at three Accra city hospitals to hold back crowds looking for bodies or posted lists of the injured. Most people were crying, in shock or bitterly angry.

Meanwhile, about 120 youths mobbed a police station in the suburb of Kotobabi, throwing stones, bottles and metal objects.

They shouted anti-police slogans, such as "Police killers, we will pay you back," witnesses said. Police fired in the air to quell the angry crowd but there were no reports of injuries.

Independent reports said the stampede claimed at least 130 lives.

Ghana's health ministry put the toll at 123, but stressed that some other bodies may have been taken home by relatives without the knowledge of hospital authorities.

Accra has announced free treatment for the victims as relatives and friends sought out the missing and city hospitals treating the injured posted up names of their patients.

Doctors were allowing groups of 20 into the hospital morgues to identify bodies. A doctor said it was necessary "as Ghanaians do not carry identity cards."

Meanwhile, police late Thursday brought back to hospital at least four bodies of victims, all Muslims, whose relatives had taken the corpses for burial.

The government has said it will not allow burials for the moment in order to have a head count of the dead.

There were 106 dead bodies in Accra's Military hospital, of whom eight were women and four children.

Scenes of the piled up bodies were aired on state-run television late Thursday and many people in bars and restaurants were openly crying while watching the news bulletin.

Government spokesperson Elisabeth Ohene said: "It looks like the police may have overreacted but a committee of inquiry will be set up.

The tragedy occurred late Wednesday after a 2-1 victory by the reigning league champions Hearts of Oak. Supporters of the arch rivals Kumasi Ashanti Kotoko began to rip up seats at the Accra Sports stadium, hurling them onto the pitch. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

KL red carpet for Fidel Castro

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia rolled out an extra-red carpet Friday to welcome Cuban President Fidel Castro, laying on rare honors and multiple meetings with Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, another prickly critic of the United States. Castro was officially greeted at Parliament by blasting cannons, an honor guard and the country's king, Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, who later gave him a rare state drive in a limousine through Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's largest city. Donning a pinstriped suit and blue tie instead of his usual military fatigues, Castro then met Mahathir at a hotel before the two men boarded a limousine together for official talks at the prime minister's office in his opulent new capital city, Putrajaya. *AP*

Israel pound Gaza anew

GAZA CITY—Israel pounded Palestinian security and Fatah headquarters in Gaza City with missiles Thursday, injuring some 20 people, mostly civilians, after a bomb blast killed two Romanian workers in the Gaza Strip. General Abdul Razzak al-Majeida, Palestinian security chief in Gaza, said "the Israeli Army fired ground-to-ground missiles . . . against Palestinian security positions, including (Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's) Fatah, in Gaza City." He said the Army was also shelling the Rafah refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip and the Palestinian border police position in Beit Hanoun, in the north of the Palestinian-controlled area. Eleven Palestinians were injured in Rafah, Palestinian security officials said. *AFP*

Russia loses 4 satellites

MOSCOW—Russia lost contact with four military satellites after a serious fire broke out at a mission control center belonging to its armed forces' space division, its chief Anatoly Perminov said on Thursday. "We have full control over all other military space structures," Perminov said in an interview with RTR television, adding that links with the four satellites could be restored at another control center. The blaze broke out after an apparent electrical short-circuit Wednesday at the building near Kurilovo, some 100 km southwest of Moscow. Some 100 firefighters from the capital and the city of Kaluga were dispatched to back up 10 ministry of defense fire crews who were fighting the blaze, which spread to all three floors of the building. *AFP*

19 killed in Indian elections

NEW DELHI—At least 19 people were killed Thursday as five Indian states held elections seen as a crucial test for main opposition leader Sonia Gandhi and for the communists who appeared in difficulty. More than 132 million voters were eligible to choose among over 5,000 candidates in 823 constituencies in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. The eastern states of Assam and West Bengal witnessed the most violence. In Assam, at least 11 people were killed, according to officials. Five polling officials were killed in the Sibsagar district when a bomb destroyed the bus in which they were traveling, police said. Police suspected that United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) separatist rebels were behind the blast, the Press Trust of India news agency reported. *AFP*

Boeing moves to Chicago

CHICAGO—The chair of US aerospace giant Boeing confirmed Thursday the company has decided to move its corporate headquarters to Chicago, ending weeks of speculation about relocation plans. Phil Condit said the company decided in March to leave its west coast base in Seattle, Washington, calling the move to the Midwest metropolitan hub "a strategic business decision." "We believe that having our world headquarters separate from any one of our major businesses will help us achieve our goals of growing this company," he told reporters at Midway Airport, south of here. The company will move just 500 of its staff here from Seattle and will continue to manufacture airplanes in the Seattle area, where it employs 70,000 people. *AFP*

Nokor leader cancels China trip

SEOUL—North Korean leader Kim Jong-il has canceled a secret visit to China because of the fiasco allegedly involving his son who was deported from Tokyo to Beijing last week, a local newspaper reported Thursday. But the report by the JoongAng Ilbo daily in Seoul could not be confirmed immediately. JoongAng quoted an unnamed government source as saying Kim Jong-il had been scheduled to visit the southern boomtown of Shenzhen, along with his eldest son Kim Jong-nam, for one week from May 7, but canceled it at the last minute. The cancellation came after Japan deported a man believed to have been the junior Kim on Friday, three days after he was detained at Tokyo's Narita airport for using a fake Dominican passport, it said. *AFP*

Suits vs Nazi reparation rejected

NEW YORK—A federal judge on Thursday dismissed lawsuits that had been blocking payouts from a $4.6-billion fund set up to compensate a million former Nazi slave laborers.

"I hereby grant the motion to dismiss the consolidated complaint," US District Judge Shirley Wohl Kram said.

The decision paves the way for payouts to begin from the fund, which was set up by German industry and the German government.

"We're very pleased and we hope that this will lead to the German parliament certifying legal closure in order that the survivors can begin to finally receive the payments they've been waiting for some 60 years," said Hillary Kessler-Godin, spokesperson for the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. *AP*

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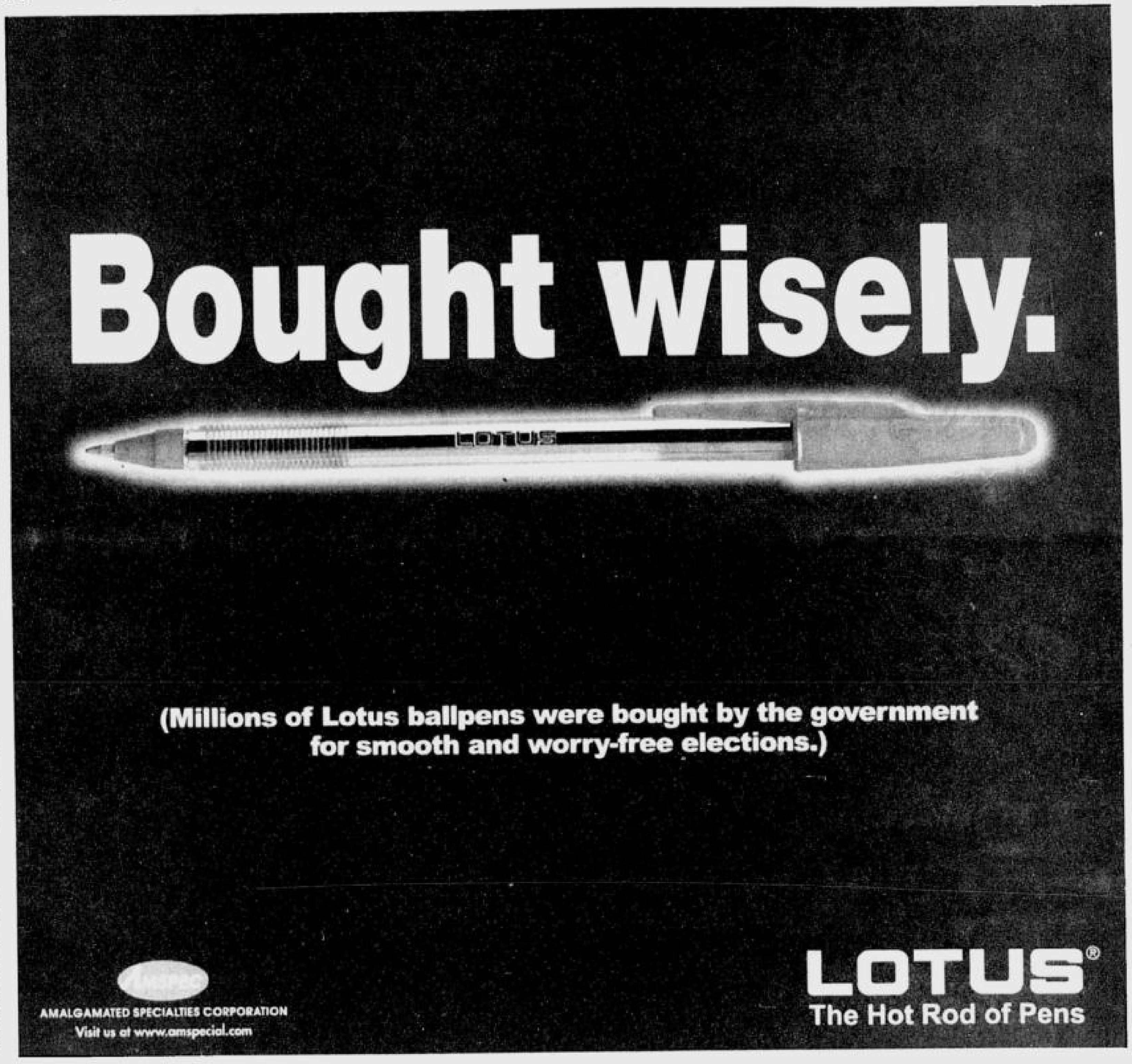
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, May 12, 2001
4th Week of Easter

1st Reading: *Acts 13:44-52*

Gospel: *Jn 14:7-14*

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you know me, you will know the Father also; indeed you know him and you have seen him."

Philip asked him, "Lord, show us the Father and that is enough." Jesus said to him, "What! I have been with you so long and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever sees me sees the Father; how can you say: 'Show us the Father?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

All that I say to you, I do not say of myself. The Father who dwells in me is doing his own work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; at least believe it on the evidence of these works that I do.

Truly, I say to you, the one who believes in me will do the same works that I do; and he will even do greater than these, for I am going to the Father. Everything you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. And everything you ask in calling upon my Name, I will do."

Commentary:

Jesus emphasizes again his union and communion with the Father. It is a communion not only of life but also of activity. Such dynamics of living and acting holds true for Jesus' disciples in relation to him. But ultimately we are taken up into Jesus' communion with his Father. If we are, therefore, more mindful of this reality, our life, no matter how insignificant it might be before worldly standards, takes a more meaningful dimension. It becomes a way of rendering back the glory that is due to God. Indeed, the more we seek less of ourselves, the more we are able to do God's work in us and thus the more God becomes glorified in us and through us. Enter the mystery and be truly free!

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US solons vote to withhold payment of UN dues

WASHINGTON—Members of the US House of Representatives, angered by the ouster of the United States from the UN Commission on Human Rights retaliated by voting to withhold some UN dues until they return to the panel.

The administration of US President George W. Bush opposed the action members of the conservative Republican party championed to punish the international organization. The most visible backers of the White House position were Democrats.

The vote Thursday was 252-165 for a measure that would allow one payment of $582 million in back dues, but hold back $244 million owed until the country is back on the human rights panel.

"I think there's an injustice there that ought to be addressed," House Speaker Dennis Hastert said of the ouster of the United States from the panel.

Last week, the United States lost its seat in a vote by the 54 members of the UN Economic and Social Council, who chose France, Austria and Sweden to represent Western nations this year.

At UN headquarters in New York, Secretary General Kofi Annan said he could not "applaud" the US withholding or the attachment of the $244 million.

"But I am told it was the best we could get," he said. "I hope at the end of the day when all is said and done that they will find a way of removing that as well."

"I think the solution is not attachments, not punishing the UN, but working with the other member states," he said. *AP*

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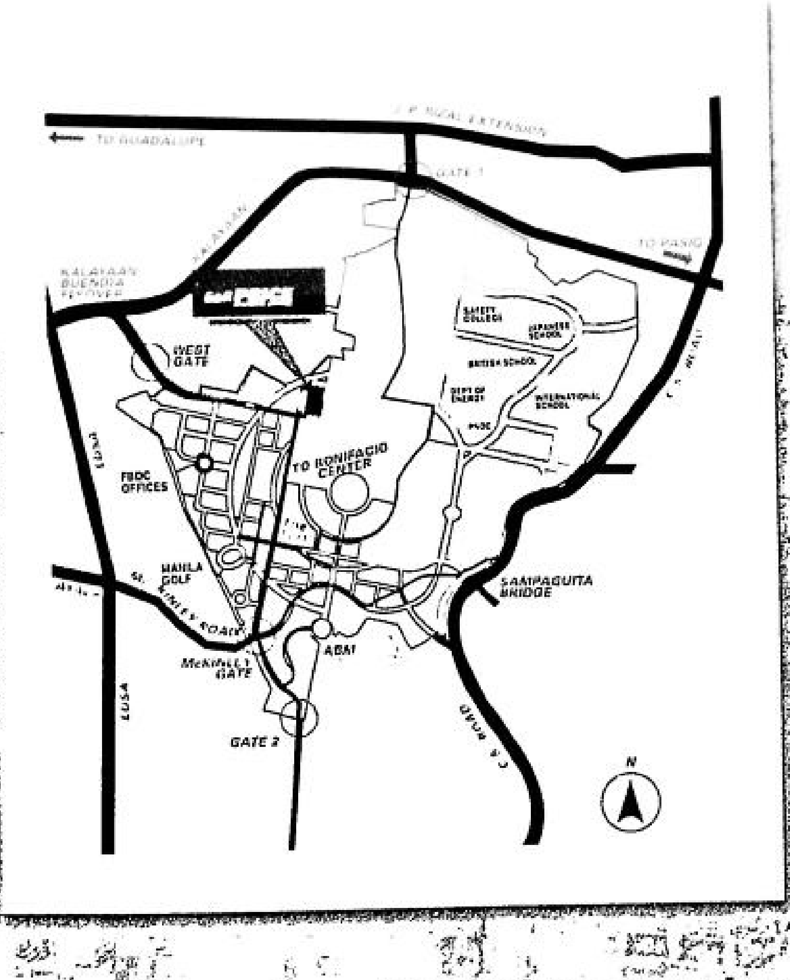
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OPENING ON
MAY 18

Iglesia tells flock: Vote 8-4-1

(From page A1)

read in our congregational worship services throughout the country one or two days before the elections as the Church usually does," Santiago said.

"We hope that this statement will satisfy the public's need and right to know. We also pray that the upcoming elections will be as peaceful and orderly as possible and that such democratic exercise be reflective of the sovereign will of the people," Santiago added.

INC members were among those who joined the pro-Estrada protest at the Edsa Shrine but the INC leadership asked them to pull out on April 30, after emissaries of President Macapagal-Arroyo led by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez met with executive minister Eraño Manalo at the INC Central Office. The emissaries had assured Manalo that the government would address the concerns of the poor and of Estrada's status.

Last Tuesday, Ms Macapagal herself visited Manalo.

Manalo, in a circular read in worship services Wednesday and Thursday, said he and Ms Macapagal "discussed ways to unite the citizenry and ways to solve the problem of poverty." Manalo said the President also assured that her administration would "respect and accord former President Estrada the rights of a former president within the limits of the law."

Manalo recalled that during the past two weeks, the nation had witnessed "the heated political confrontation between the supporters of former President Estrada and the current administration."

"We understand the sentiments of the people, which some of you may have shared, (that were) aroused by the manner by which the current administration of our nation treated former President Estrada," he said.

"However, we also understand the position of the government that the right of the citizens to express their sentiments should be exercised within the bounds of the laws of our land."

"We will never condone any kind of violence and any movement that violates our country's Constitution for such will not help in uplifting our country but instead only serves to worsen the current state of our nation."

Negative ad exec gets threats

(From page A1)

Angie Abella, head of the secretariat of the 13-0 Movement, said that a group of men had apparently put her under surveillance.

Abella said two men riding in two vehicles went to her clinic in a building on Roxas Boulevard on May 9, and wanted to know her whereabouts and her home address.

She and Ong staunchly defended the pro-administration campaign ads and denied that the money for the ads came from Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office funds.

Abella said the 13-0 Movement spent P8.2 million to produce the series and not P150 million as the opposition has claimed.

The four ads, which featured Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates Lacson, Juan Ponce Enrile, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Gregorio Honasan, ran for four days starting May 6. They aired for a total 78.5 minutes, the women said.

The original plan was for the ads to run for five days, but the 13-0 Movement aborted the TV campaign upon the request of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Abella admitted that it had "pained" the 13-0 Movement to withdraw the series.

She said the President had sent an emissary to the group to ask it to stop airing the ads.

In return, the group sent Ms Macapagal a letter asking her whether it was wrong for them to tell the truth, she said.

Nothing they didn't say

Ong said that the 13-0 Movement's ads were "legal," citing a Comelec rule that permits the production of political ads to either promote or oppose candidacies.

She said her agency did not include anything in the ads that the four candidates did not actually say during the five-day gathering of supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada at the Edsa Shrine.

"We didn't put words in their mouths . . . We did not embellish anything," Ong told reporters.

INQUIRER columnist Rina David, president of Abanse Pinay, said her party-list group supported the ads, as she wondered why the opposition wanted to hide what its candidates had said.

Agencies

Setting the record straight, Ong said that the ads were produced by Capri, a sister agency of Campaigns and Grey, which was set up in 1991 to specialize in "advocacy communications."

Apart from being the agency behind the People Power Coalition's campaign ads on television, Capri has produced public service ads on such issues as family planning and public awareness of AIDS.

Both Abella and Ong said another negative ad put out by "friends of the Puwersa ng Masa" served only to foment class war.

Ong said the anti-PPC ad was placed by World Impact and Mertz, two advertising firms which she said she was not familiar with.

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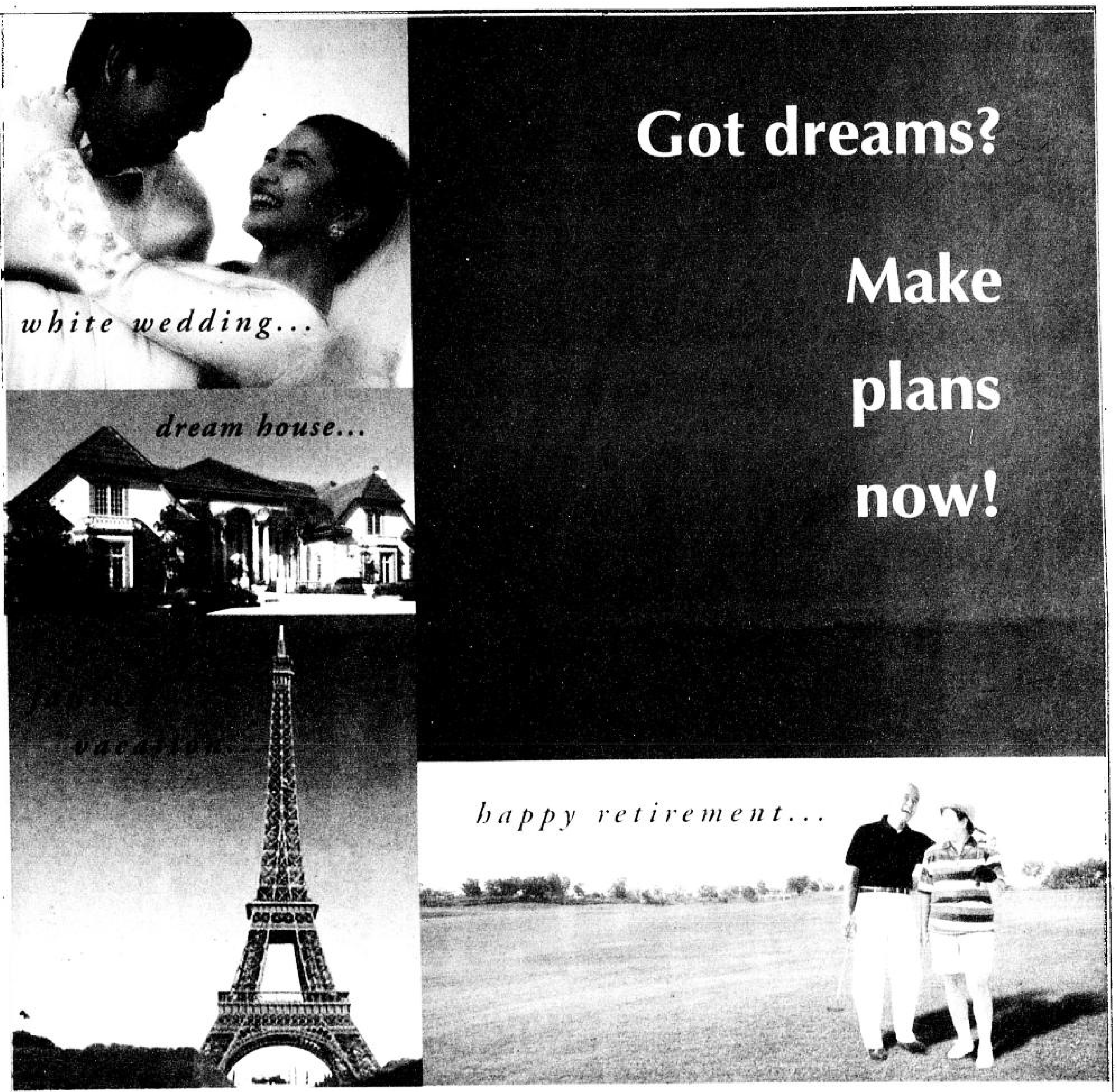

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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

PPC to expel Lakas, says Lito O

BY JHUNNEX NAPALLACAN
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Lakas-NUCD may no longer be part of the People Power Coalition (PPC) after the May 14 elections.

Three political party members of the coalition have agreed to expel the Lakas-NUCD from the PPC, said former Cebu Gov. Emilio "Lito" Osmeña, chair of Promdi.

He said the Lakas-NUCD had committed violations in the coalition agreement since the start of the campaign period, among them in the selection of local candidates.

But he added that he, Raul Roco of Aksyon Demokratiko and Renato de Villa of Reporma decided that the expulsion of the Lakas-NUCD should happen after the May 14 elections.

Osmeña said De Villa is still recuperating after undergoing a heart bypass operation.

"I, Roco and De Villa did not want the PPC to be tainted with the negative image of (the) Lakas-NUCD," Osmeña said in Cebuano.

The PPC is composed of the Lakas-NUCD, Reporma, Aksyon Demokratiko and Promdi. The four major political parties joined forces in October last year under the name United Opposition primarily to call for the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada at the height of the Juetengate scandal.

But the group later changed their name to People Power Coalition after Mr. Estrada and his family were kicked out of Malacañang on Jan. 20 by the People Power 2.

Since the selection of candidates would present a problem to the coalition, its officials agreed that the dominant party in the area should be given a hand in choosing their candidates.

But Osmeña said former Speaker Jose de Venecia, Lakas-NUCD national chair, and his group chose their own candidates even if the dominant party in the area had already selected the official candidate of the coalition.

The Lakas-NUCD, he added, even pick out *balimbings* as candidates. This, Osmeña said, was an indication that the Lakas-NUCD was reverting to its old habit.

"De Venecia has (a) habit of recruiting anybody, including turncoats, just to make their party bigger," he said in Cebuano.

Osmeña cited a case in Cebu City wherein the PPC endorsed the mayoral bid of Tomas Osmeña, Lito's cousin and member of Promdi executive committee.

But former Tarlac Rep. Jose Cojuangco of Kampi endorsed reelectionist Cebu City Mayor Alvin Garcia and his slate.

Kampi is an affiliate of the Lakas-NUCD and the original party of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But Osmeña said that Cojuangco's endorsement can be taken as a support from the Lakas-NUCD because Cojuangco and De Venecia are known allies.

Despite their plan to expel Lakas-NUCD, Osmeña assured that he will support the entire PPC senatorial slate for the sake of the coalition although he admitted that he personally do not like some of them.

When asked why, he replied: "*Mga trapo.*" Osmeña declined to name them, saying he would do so only after the elections.

Cell phone use banned during vote counting

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Accredited poll watchers will not be allowed to carry and use mobile phones while votes are being counted and transported in 2,992 polling centers and 22,607 precincts in Central Luzon and Aurora province on May 14, the regional police and Commission on Elections here said.

The ban is one of the means the Philippine National Police and the Comelec in the region have devised to thwart irregularities in this year's elections, Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Central Luzon police chief, told the INQUIRER Wednesday.

"We are guarding every possible source of cheating. We'd like the voters to also help by demonstrating a People Power-like vigilance during the elections," he said.

The elections in Central Luzon are operating this year in different circumstances, he said.

These will be held amid a destabilization plot where government troopers in the region have been deployed to the country's capital and when Visiting Forces Agreement-related military exercises are due to end.

Through text messages or mobile phone calls, watchers of losing candidates may give tips or cues to disrupt the counting, tamper with or snatch the certificates of election returns at the municipal level or certificates of canvas at the provincial level, Galang said.

Deputized by the Comelec to oversee the conduct of "honest, orderly and peaceful elections," the PNP said it was necessary for teachers to compare the serial numbers of accomplished ballots with the entries in the book of voters, where the names of the registered voters are listed.

Counterchecking will reduce the chances of replacing official ballots with fake ballots or smuggling official ballots out of the precincts.

In ballot smuggling, Galang said a "negotiator" of a candidate hands a fake ballot to a voter who, in turn, surrenders his blank official ballot in exchange for money. The negotiator next writes the name of his candidate on the official ballot and hands the accomplished form to the next voter who puts this in the ballot box.

The deceptive money-for-ballot chain can go on unless the teachers cross check the serial number and the thumb mark of the ballot issued to a voter, Galang said.

The police, according to Galang, will secure the conduct of the elections at all phases, except during counting when they are required to stay outside the precincts.*Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northwestern Luzon will experience stormy weather and its coastal waters will be rough to very rough. The Western section of Central Luzon and extreme Northern Luzon will have rains and gusty winds with moderate to rough seas while the rest of Northern and Suthern Luzon and Mindanao will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

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Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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SPECIAL EMISSARY

Lapid role called 'masa' tranquilizer

BACOLOR, Pampanga—In appointing Gov. Manuel Lapid as special emissary to urban poor communities in Metro Manila, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was only giving the masses a "dose of tranquilizers," Buklod Kapampangan gubernatorial candidate Ananias Canlas Jr. said.

"The poor are just being entertained and amused," Canlas said of the visits of Lapid, also a movie actor, to squatter areas to reach out to supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada who joined violent riots in Malacañang on May 1.

Since May 2, Lapid has been making the rounds of urban poor communities in the country's capital, distributing relief goods, facilitating medical missions and holding dialogues with urban poor leaders.

The President, in a Palace statement on May 5, said Lapid, a fellow Kapampangan whom she named as her special representative, will "reach out (to) the supporters of the former president."

"I want them to know that I am a friend and an ally and not their enemy," Ms Macapagal said in the statement.

But instead of wooing Estrada supporters through Lapid, Ms Macapagal should instead "address the root causes of poverty through pro-poor programs," Canlas said.

"*Hindi sapat yang pakaway-kaway ni* governor (The governor's waving and shaking hands are not enough to address the problems of the poor)," he said.

Canlas on Thursday also criticized Lapid for taking on the assignment, saying it was an "abandonment of his responsibilities as governor of Pampanga."

He further questioned the capability of Lapid, claiming that the governor himself has "not implemented viable pro-poor programs" in Pampanga.

He said Pampanga has many poor residents due to Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions and lahar flows, lack of lands to till, illegal land conversion and low wages.

"He should do first his job in the province. The Kapampangans elected him to serve them, not those in Metro Manila," Canlas said.

Reached through phone on Thursday, Lapid only laughed at Canlas' comments, which were also published in a local daily here.

"It's true I am a movie actor but I am not visiting (urban poor communities) as an actor. I am there to find out their needs and problems, which I have been reporting directly to the President," he said in Kapampangan.

"I would be wasting my time and energy if I just went there to entertain. *Hindi naman ito* This is not 'That's Entertainment.' Dialogues are important now so that the President would get a real assessment of people's sentiments. That way we can start having a sense of stability in the administration."

Lapid, a high school graduate, said he was not neglecting his duties in the province. "I know my obligations. I still have a hands-on leadership," he said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

LAPID

Pols who paid NPA face raps

DAVAO CITY—Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, said the police are seriously considering filing charges against politicians who bought the permits-to-campaign fees imposed by the New People's Army.

Mendoza said they plan to initiate the move in a bid to curb the widespread practice of politicians, especially those based in rebel-controlled areas, of paying the NPA campaign fees.

"*Ang masakit kasi dito* . . . (What hurts is that we are creating a monster," Mendoza told reporters at the Davao International Airport (DIA) Thursday.

He said PNP intelligence operatives are moving around the country to check on politicians who pay the NPA and how much money the rebels actually collected from these campaign fees.

He said initially, they learned that the practice of candidates paying the campaign fees proliferated in Central Luzon, Caraga and the Southern Mindanao regions.

Mendoza, however, said PNP legal officers are still studying the specific charges that could be filed against the candidates.

Director Edgar Galvante, PNP director for operations, said paying the NPA is tantamount to giving aid and comfort to the rebels.

Galvante said the politicians who paid the fees could also be held liable for "willingly contributing" to the rebel's treasury.

Mendoza also said they have already made recommendations to the government peace panel negotiating with the National Democratic Front (NDF) to include the issue as an agenda in the peace talks.

The NPA in Southern Mindanao has reportedly raised at least P1 million from the "permit-to-campaign" fees it collected from politicians since March.

Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Landslide blocks roads to Ifugao

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Hundreds of tourists and commuters going to the world famous rice terraces in Ifugao, some 70 kilometers from here, were stranded early Thursday when a landslide blocked the national highway leading to Banaue town.

The landslide was caused by heavy rains, which pounded the mountains this week, loosening up the soil in Barangay Bangaan, according to disaster coordinating council officials.

Tourists and commuters had to hike at least 10 kilometers to reach Barangay Poblacion in Banaue town.

Officials said no one was hurt when a portion of the mountain collapsed, covering the road with rocks and mud.

The landslide also affected the villages of Mayoyao and Aguinaldo towns since the highway serves as the only route to those areas.

Highway officials said clearing operations, which started Thursday, would last in a week because of the unpredictable weather condition.

"This will depend on whether the weather will be stable because it is raining here almost every afternoon," a resident there said. ***Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

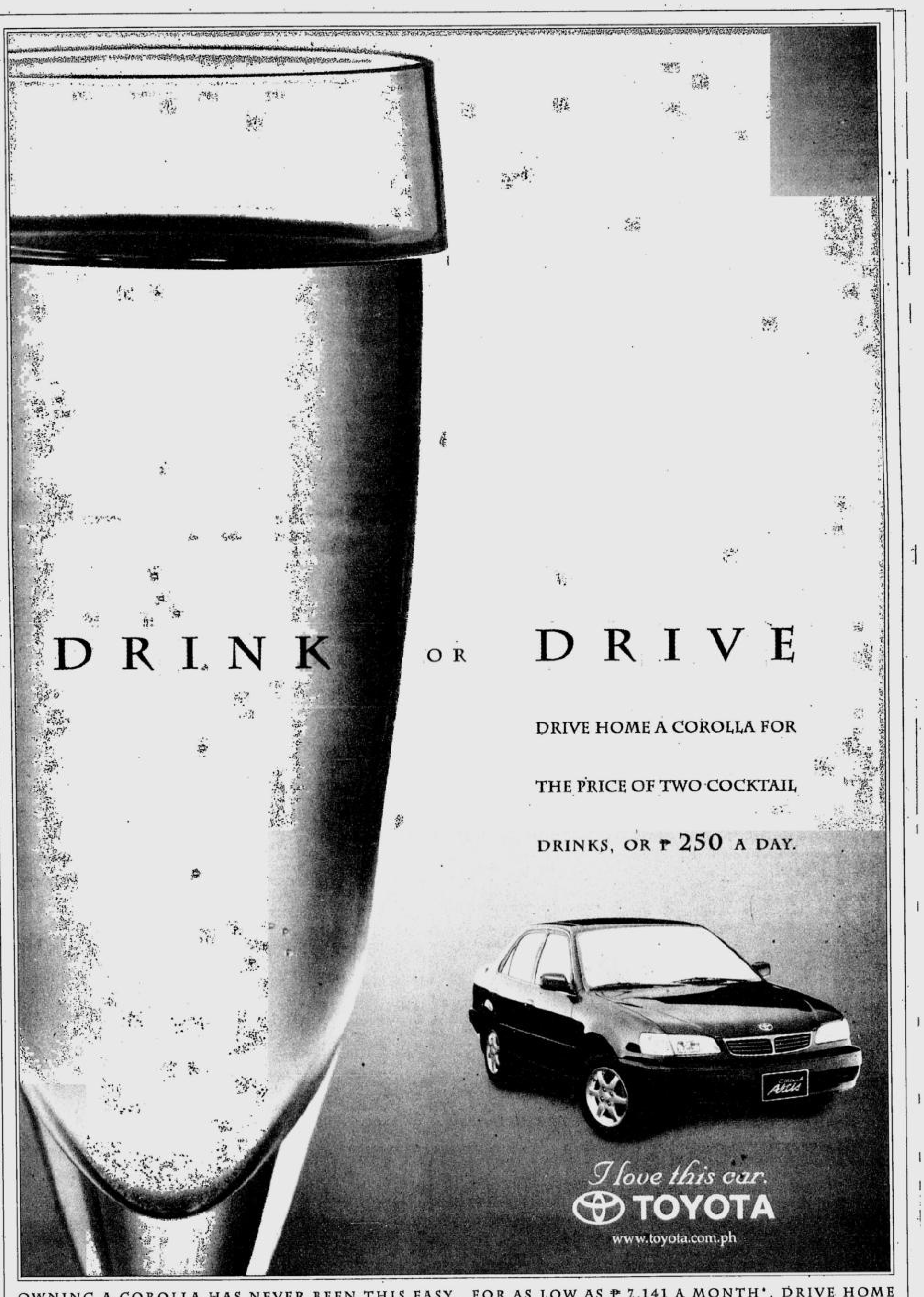
Bet says agri key to progress

MODERNIZING agriculture is key to Ilocos Norte's progress, according to Tony Raquiza Jr., candidate for provincial board member of Ilocos Norte's first district, in sorties in the farming municipality of Burgos yesterday.

Raquiza Jr. who is running under the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan noted that Ilocos Norte, a predominantly farming province, produced about 161,000 metric tons of palay in 1998, higher than the output of Central Luzon provinces except for Nueva Ecija and Tarlac.

Raquiza said "In 1999, we had 142,000 people earning from agriculture alone. Many, however, still plant traditional crops and use traditional farming methods."

Raquiza stressed the need to develop rural infrastructure such as farm-to-market roads, irrigation system and post-harvest facilities, deliver credit, promote sustainable and diversified farming and bring in investments.



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Joey Manansala, 19 years old and now an incoming 4th year college student of AMA Computer College, has been hailed as ASEAN Champion in IT Skills in the recently concluded 3rd ASEAN IT SKILLS OLYMPICS in Bangkok, Thailand last March 16 to 21, 2001. The singular honor underlines once more the high quality of education, by international standards, that AMA offers and delivers to its college students.

Joey, a Kapampangan and a former AMA Computer Learning Center (ACLC) student of Bulacan, initially won the Regional and National tiff to represent the Philippines in the said IT Olympics. Becoming a full AMA scholar on this merit, Joey is currently "on leave" as he prepares for the "International IT Skills Olympics" slated to be held in Seoul, Korea in September, 2001.

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AMA's ISO 9001 Certification, granted the College in January 1999 after it passed a rigid-world standard quality inspection conducted by the Societe de General Surveillance (SGS), has provided AMA the added impetus to seek this University status in the Philippines. Also, the recent conferment of University status to AMA by the Republic of Bangladesh in its operations that country augurs well for the College in its home grounds. Today, as the world firmly embarks on the full entry into the Information Age, AMA students will find themselves armed with the expertise, the confidence and the academic credentials to compete with anyone both here and abroad.

NCC-UK Introduces Computer International Skills Testing at AMA

The NCC-UK has made available a new International Skills Testing for End Users of personal computers. The National Computing Center of the United Kingdom (NCC-UK) is England's certifying authority for IT credentials around the world. NCC-UK appointed AMA as an Accredited Training Partner in 1977 after a thorough inspection in quality audit of the school's facilities and academic capabilities. As such, it became AMA's honor and responsibility to run the NCC-UK's International Degree and Diploma programs in the country.

The new skills testing module is designed and intended to provide an internationally-accepted certification program for users of personal computers all over the world. Testing is done at all AMA branches. Fully automated with no human intervention, the skills testing program is seen to overcome obstacles normally posed by language and culture.

The AMA - NCC-UK connection helps a Filipino acquire necessary international credentials in the field of IT economically and practically. You no longer have to leave the country to earn these International credentials.

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In the United States alone, it is estimated that 250,000 new talents are required on a yearly basis to man the continuously expanding IT sector. Add to that the professional demands of Europe and other countries worldwide and INFOTECH sees an even steeper climb in its growth in the coming years.

INFOTECH placement services may be accessed by AMA students and graduates through the administrative divisions of their various mother schools. Interested parties from other schools may inquire at the AMA headquarters at Panay Avenue, Quezon City, or call their trunkline at 373-3901 to 08.

18,000 New AMACC Graduates Boost IT Work Force

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The AMA Education System, acknowledge leader in IT-based education in the country, enriches the country's work force once more with approximately 14,000 new graduates during their Commencement Exercises for School Year 2000-2001 at the PICC today. Each AMA graduate is armed with internationally-accredited academic credentials certified by the biggest names in IT education worldwide. With this new batch of energetic young minds, AMA Computer College strengthens the Philippines' bid as the most fertile ground for "head-hunting" new IT talent in this part of the world.

With the team "At the Forefront of Information and Communication Technology in the 21st Century," AMA Computer College reiterates its commitment to bring IT education in the Philippines up to par or even better than the rest of the world. The past years, which saw AMA students excel in various IT applications and competitions local and international, proves AMA's leading edge in computer understanding and expertise in both conceptual and applied levels.

Now on its 20th year of pioneering the highly-successful and effective models of computer-based education in the Philippines, the AMA Educational System now boasts of 200 colleges and learning centers all over the country with more than 40,000 enrollees on a per term basis. AMA international operations, initiated in 1979 now operates colleges and learning centers in Hongkong, Singapore, Bangladesh, the United States and Europe. AMAES also has the distinction of being the first and the only Phillippine school to become a member of the American League of Colleges and Universities (ALOCU), a prestigious organization of more than 90 colleges and universities in the US, Japan and Asian countries. Through this, AMA students have the opportunity to pursue further studies on various fields abroad in schools that are also members of the ALOCU.

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2	29	QC	REYES, ROGER R.	*With Highest Honors*	MACOED
3	31	QC	AUSTRIA, PAUL VINCET G.	MAGNA CUM LAUDE	BSCS
4	11	CALOOCAN	CO, LIANNE A.	MAGNA CUM LAUDE	BSBA MIS
5	32	QC	INDIANO, MA. LOURDES A.	MAGNA CUM LAUDE	BSCS
6	3	MAKATI	BALDOVINO, CARMELANY B.	CUM LAUDE	BSBA MIS
7	4	MAKATI	EUSEBIO, ANTHONY A.	CUM LAUDE	BSBA MIS
8	6	MAKATI	GO, MELISSA Y.	CUM LAUDE	BS CE
9	5	MAKATI	INIETO, CARIMEL JOYCE D.	CUM LAUDE	BSBA MIS
10	36	QC	ALIPIO, MARIEL S.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
11	48	QC	AMOROSO, FERDINAND L.	CUM LAUDE	BSCOE
12	34	QC	APUADA, KRISTINE P.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
13	37	QC	ARELLANO, MA. LOURDES V.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
14	44	QC	BAJARIAS, MA. TERESA CRISTINA C.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
15	43	QC	BRUAL, SHERYL C.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
16	41	QC	CORTEZ, ERIC C.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
17	51	QC	DAMIAS, PEARL RUTH N.	CUM LAUDE	BSBA-MIS
18	33	QC	DE GUZMAN, AMOR D.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
19	47	QC	DE LEON, AILEEN A.	CUM LAUDE	BSCOE
20	35	QC	FAJARDO, JUPEE C.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
21	39	QC	FORTUNATO, SHERYL C.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
22	46	QC	MARANAN, ROSEMARIE S.	CUM LAUDE	BSSC
23	49	QC	MENCHATE, JOVEN S.	CUM LAUDE	BSECE
24	50	QC	PAGUIRIGAN, JEMIMAH A.	CUM LAUDE	BSBA-MIS
25	38	QC	QUIZON, MA. EULEMIA	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
26	40	QC	SUNGLAO, MERYL P.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
27	42	QC	VIVAR, MARIVIC A.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
28	45	QC	YU, FERDINAND Y.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
29	16	CALOOCAN	CASINAS, EMILY M.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
30	15	CALOOCAN	DE VELA, OMAR L.	CUM LAUDE	BA MASS COM
31	17	CALOOCAN	GIRON, KRISTOFFER C.	CUM LAUDE	BS ECE
32	12	CALOOCAN	MENDOZA, MEI LYN C.	CUM LAUDE	BSBA MIS
33	10	CALOOCAN	NATIVIDAD, MA. TERESA T.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
34	13	CALOOCAN	SAGUM, MA. ROMA GERLIE C.	CUM LAUDE	BSBA MIS
35	14	CALOOCAN	SIOAO, RONNIE H.	CUM LAUDE	BSBA MIS
36	18	CALOOCAN	TAN, MIMILANIE M.	CUM LAUDE	BSCE
37	9	BIÑAN	CABANGON, CHARMAINE L.	CUM LAUDE	BSBA MIS
38	8	BIÑAN	MENDOZA, SUZIE B.	CUM LAUDE	BSBA MIS
39	7	BIÑAN	PLANTILLA, LUZVIMINDA	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
40	1	EAST RIZAL	CO, NANCY T.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
41	2	EAST RIZAL	DUCUT, GLENDA C.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
42	19	FAIRVIEW	PACIS, DOROTHY JOY T.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
43	28	PARAÑAQUE	PUNZALAN, MARIFE R.	CUM LAUDE	BSCS
44	20	STA. MESA	CAPIO, JEANETTE G.	CUM LAUDE	BSBA MIS
45	21	STA. MESA	MACEDA, MA. ROMAINE D.	CUM LAUDE	BSBA MIS

LHS GEMS launched for AMA Science School. Cutting the ribbon for the occassion are the Department of Education, Culture and Sports Chief Secondary Division Dr. Josefina T. Cunanan (2nd from left) and UC Berkeley representative Lynn Barakos, while Dr. Socorro Rodriguez, AMAES Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Kevin Beals look on.

University of California Berkeley Teams up with AMA Education System for Basic Education

Aside from its commitment to provide the best IT-based education in the country, the AMA Education (AMAES) also embarks on providing the Filipino youth of high quality science and math eduaction through AMA Science School consist of pre-school, elementary and secondary school. Just recently, AMA inked an agreement with the University of California Berkeley adapting the latter's curriculum for innovative math and science education dubbed as GEMS or Great Exlporations in Math and Science developed bnu UC Berkeley Lawrence Hall of Science. This latest trend in math and science education in the US gives emphasis on engaging students in direct experience and experimentation - not on memorization of theories.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Warmest felicitations to the graduating class of the AMA Computer College for shool year 2000-2001.

Your graduation is a fitting finale to your years of academic studies and training. As you embark on the next phase of your life, I urge you to keep faith with values that your school has taught you. These values -faith in God, love for fellowmen and service to the community-will serve as your foundation for a successful and meaningful participation in today's global community.

The role of the youth in nation-building is strategic. New concept and ideas that emanate from your young minds are a needed boost to the new administration's effort to complete the healing process. Likewise, your youthful ideals antl dynamism are an inspiration in promoting the virtues of good governance, responsible citizenship, social justice and sustainable development.

I ask you to join me in steering this nation towards greater peace, prosperity and stability. Let us all work together in building a progressive and free Philippines for the sake of your generation and all future generations of Filipinos .

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas at ang mga bagong nagsipagtapos ng AMA Computer College!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL - ARROYO

GMA Congratulates AMACC Graduates

It gives me great pride and pleasure to greet and congratulate the graduating students of AMA Computer College on the occasion of your commencement exercises on the 12th of May 2001 at the Philippines International Convention Center.

As you leave the portals of this esteemed institution of higher learning and face the challenges that lie ahead in the real world, it is my fervent hope that you will respond to the socio-economic and moral needs of our country by adhering to the highest standards of professional competence and integrity. May the fruits of your labor ultimately redound to national welfare and development.

To the graduating class of 2001, my congratulations and warmest felicitations.

FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Senator

Information Technology has transformed the way we think. Even more so, IT has changed the way we live. In the last two decades, the AMA Education System has led the Filipino youth in making themselves attuned to the fast-changing cyberage developments. As we enter the 21st century, the challenge to continue this commitment for the future becomes more invaluable to our national and global aspirations.

In the past few years, the AMACC vision to produce high caliber graduates has led our institution to enter into fruitful partnerships with the world's most reliable and most credible computer development and education companies. We make sure that we provide the young people who entrust their future in us to gain the optimum knowledge required by the present ultra-modern work and technological environments. We believe we must encourage and support students who are out to make a difference in the IT world in particular and society in general.

Expect the same dedication and zeal from AMA Education System today and in the coming years. Good luck to all of you!

AMABLE R. AGUILUZ V
Founder, AMA Education System

> *"A pioneer school in computer-based education, AMA Computer College has a major role in the journey towards the Green Age. As a leader in computer education, AMA is smithy for young technical professionals or techies who in the future will set the trend in innovative technology, both of the hard and soft kind".*
>
> **-Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V**
> **Founder**

It is with much pride that I greet the Batch 2001 AMA graduates. In gaining an excellent computer-based education, you are more than ready to meet the challenges of the future.

The twenty-first century work environment requires an in-depth knowledge of both hardware and software technology. You have the edge over your contemporaries because you got your computer education from one of the top, if not the best, computer schools in the country. And I would like to believe you also have the resourcefulness and wisdom to employ what you have learned not only for personal gain but also in making our technology-dependent era more in the line of human productivity and progress.

I sincerely hope that after leaving the halls of AMA Computer College, you will make yourselves the best persons you can' be and make your parents, teachers, friends, and most of all yourselves, proud alumni of our beloved school.

Congratulations and good luck to all!

AMABLE C. AGUILUZ IX
President, AMA EDUCATION SYSTEM

MILESTONES IN AMACC HISTORY

October 1980 - AMA is founded by Dr. Amable R Aguiluz V as a small computer institute. This pioneered computer-based education in the infant personal computer industry.

1986 - the AMA Computer Learning Center (ACLC) network is established.

The decade of the 90's - saw AMA grow as it entered into strategic partnerships with the biggest names in computer technology, education and IT development. Microsoft, National Computing Center of the United Kingdom (NCC-UK), AVAYA Communication (formerly of Lucent technologies), Cisco Systems, Hewlett-Packard, SmartForce USA (e-learning), American League of Colleges and Universities and many more.

1996 - the AMA Telecommunications and electronics Learning Center (AMATEL) network is established to support the burgeoning telecommunications and electronics industry.

January 1999 - AMA Computer College is awarded the prestigious **ISO 9001 Certification** by the Societe General de Surveillance.

1999 - ABE International College of Business and Economics is established to provide Filipino commerce students the ability to earn ABE-UK internationally certified college degree diplomas right here in the country.

2000 - AMA Education System begins developing a Science and mathematics curriculum and program for the basic education to help prepare Filipino students for challenges of the new millennium.

End 2000 - AMAES now has an estimated student population exceeding 180,000 in 60 colleges and 140 learning centers all over the Philippines.

2001 - University of California at Berkeley joins the AMAES in bringing their LHS GEMS (Lawrence Hall of Science - Greater Explorations in Math and Science) experiential method of education to the Philippines. This brings about the establishment of the AMA Science School.

AMA
Education System

Welcome to the BIG LEAGUE!

INQUIRER Visayas
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ EDRALYN L. BENEDICTO, Bureau Chief

Campaign news: A costly commodity

By THE PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

MEDIA owners rejoiced over the passage of the Fair Elections Act, which gave the green light to politicians to buy space in newspapers and airtime in radio and TV stations.

However, the much-anticipated windfall of revenue for community papers did not come. The community media became just an afterthought for politicians seeking national exposure.

As a result, provincial journalists and media owners returned to the tried and tested way of making money these elections: Passing off press releases as news and paying off reporters.

In at least two provinces in Western Visayas—Iloilo and Antique—headlines and front page stories are for sale, usually from P3,000 to P5,000. Press releases are accommodated for P500 to P1,000, depending on their length.

Local editors have no qualms in carrying stories of their sacred cows.

Some publishers of community newspapers in the Visayas are known to have asked their reporters, even their editors, to sell political advertisements. The results are sometimes beneficial to all concerned.

As in past elections, top local media honchos usually call the shots whenever candidates are around to campaign. Thus, it is no longer surprising that media honchos in the provinces acquire new cars, new printing presses and office equipment after the election season.

Packaged deal

In a small town like San Jose, Antique that a resident once described as a "barangay pretending to be a town," journalism is everything but reporting the truth.

Since everybody knows everybody, local media practitioners have to be careful with what he says or writes at the pain of losing his job at the behest of the powers that be. If he wants to keep his livelihood or that of his wife or close relatives, he has to learn how to navigate the tricky waters of local politics and even make money out of it.

This election, the staff of the only newspaper in Antique admitted that their paper's pages are for sale.

"Anybody can buy space in our newspaper, including the front page," said Ely Suyom, editor of the weekly Antique Journal.

He cited the case of one candidate who bought space on the front page and then bought several thousands of copies of the paper to be distributed to voters in his community.

Suyom said the Antique Journal took after Iloilo newspapers that sell their newspaper space to politicians. He did not elaborate on the rates for front page news but hinted that even the headline is also for sale.

Broadcast news—on local radio and television—are also packaged for politicians complete with voice clips. For a fee. And this is happening across the Visayas.

Broadcasts in several stations in the cities of Iloilo, Cebu and Bacolod are block time programs paid for by politicians. In Iloilo, some broadcast reporters anchor the programs themselves.

A former manager of a hard-hitting station in Iloilo told the INQUIRER that the top honchos of the radio stations in Western Visayas are the ones who usually make a killing during the campaign because they negotiate the fees for interviews.

Officials of this radio station also confirmed their station's election policy that a political candidate must first "pay" for airtime before his interview would be aired.

A media handler of senatorial candidate Orlando Mercado learned about this practice the hard way when he was charged P1,500 per minute of an interview with the former defense chief in a radio station in Iloilo.

In Cebu City, at least four major broadcast stations sell their interviews to candidates if these are meant to promote their platforms of government. Live coverage for political rallies also carry a corresponding price.

One station belonging to a network does not only sell the usual vote-for-me interviews but interviews for legitimate news items as well.

The policy was handed down by its mother station in Manila shortly before the start of the campaign period for local candidates last March 30.

'Seven last words'

Demoralized reporters of the station called the policy "The Seven Last Words" because it contained seven guidelines on what the news department should do with political news.

Based on the guidelines, reporters are not allowed to report anything about a candidate from any political party, even from party-list groups, without a go-signal from their mother station. Commentators are not allowed to mention any candidate without prior authority from the head office.

The only exemption: If the candidate is wounded or killed in an ambush or accident.

A staff member told the INQUIRER that the candidate has to negotiate over fees with the head office.

"But the amount is so outrageous. I don't know if any of the candidates can afford it," the staff member said.

When asked how much an interview would cost, the staff member replied: "A package can cost as (much) as P100,000."

The payment should also be made before broadcast. No payment, no broadcast.

This explains why this station did not cover the press conferences of the PnM and the People Power Coalition when their senatorial candidates were in Cebu on April 1 and 2.

The station sent a reporter to the PPC rally in the evening of April 2 but only to be around "in case something will happen."

Significant stories, like the response of senatorial candidate Panfilo Lacson to allegations linking him to the abduction and murder of PR man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer, were not used by the station.

"No, because he is a candidate," was the response received by the station's reporters when they asked their manager if they could run the Lacson interview.

As expected, the station policy has affected its newscast. "Politics is the hottest news now and we are not allowed to cover it. We have a problem on how to fill our 30-minute newscast," another reporter said.

The station manager told the INQUIRER that their head office came up with the policy because it wanted the station "to veer away from politics."

Price tag

The fear was that the station might get caught in the middle of mudslinging between warring candidates. The policy was also meant to prevent any "under-the-table-deals" between the news source and the reporter, the station manager said.

"There are other news to explore," the station manager said.

In other radio stations, only those interviews that promote the candidates' candidacy carry price tags.

One radio station, for example, sells its 5-minute interview for P5,100. For political rallies, the charge was P61,200 per hour. Since the start of the campaign period for local candidates, this station has generated at least P100,000 from these campaign "interviews" alone.

When asked if this policy works to the disadvantage of poor but qualified candidates, the station manager replied: "They should not attempt to run for public office if they don't have money."

But he said there were interviews that were not for sale, such as a candidate answering charges of alleged drug use. "For as long as the (interviews) are newsworthy and conform to our journalistic standards," it will be for free. But if it was meant to promote their platform of governance, "they have to pay."

A manager of another radio station in Cebu admitted they have a similar policy but it, too, does not sell interviews deemed newsworthy. The station, however, strictly followed the directive of its main office in Manila that candidates should first make arrangements with their head office in Manila, which determines the rates for interviews, before they could be interviewed in Cebu to promote their candidacies.

The radio station operated by the Catholic Church in Cebu appeared to be the only broadcast entity that shuns the practice of selling its interviews, although it accepts conventional political advertisements.

"(It's) unethical (to) sell interviews," the station manager said. "We also have limited airtime because of our religious programs."

The policy on interviews-for-sale is, however, not prevalent in Cebu's three daily newspapers.

But since two of Cebu's newspapers are owned by political families who have family members running in this elections, their political news and columns have been peppered with articles that serve the interests of the owners.

While some media outlets are hush-hush when asked if they were endorsing candidates, one TV station in Iloilo came up with a memorandum to its staff announcing its choice of candidate, Neil Tupas, who is running for governor in Iloilo province. Tupas' son happens to be one of the legal counsels of the GMA network.

'Fund raising'

Media outlets bar reporters from plugging candidates who have not paid for airtime, unless it involves legitimate news. This has reduced individual reporters into "fund raisers."

Sadly, corruption has become an accepted fact in the media community that breeds poorly paid practitioners. Reporters consider the favors and perks given by politicians as "payment for their professional services"—attending press conferences.

One columnist of an Iloilo newspaper, Fr. Meliton Oso, had caused a stir by raising the issue of corruption in his column entitled "The media as prostitute." The column, despite its controversial title, was an appeal to media for fairness and accuracy this election season. Oso is the head of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV).

Oso's column drew flak because it brought to public attention the otherwise acceptable practice of the local press, which he wrote, "was perceived to be receiving money from unscrupulous politicians." It must have hurt a few when he wrote: "A purveyor of truth must not only tell the truth but also live the truth."

Suyom offered no excuse for this practice. In Antique, he said, there is no way a journalist can separate himself from politicians and try to make a living out of journalism.

"You can see how low the salaries are here. We have no choice," he said.

Even with business advertisers, Antique Journal survives partly through the patronage of mayors and other local politicians.

Although space in Antique Journal is "democratic," Suyom admitted that the paper has its "political leanings."

Antique Journal, at almost a year old, is selling briskly with its highly political contents critical of the administration of Gov. Exequiel Javier who is now running for congressman under the Lakas-NUCD.

Almost every issue has something against Javier through blind items and straight news. One can also sense the obvious kid-glove treatment the paper has for Javier's staunch political opponent, Rep. Jovito Plameras (NPC), a reelectionist, and his supporters.

Suyom said his paper had such leanings because it is "an alternative paper that will always expose the truth." He said if there was any issue against Plameras, the paper would publish it.

Amid accusations that he and his fellow staffers were receiving monthly retainer's fees from Plameras and other politicians, Suyom insisted that they do not receive any financial compensation.

"In fact, they (Plameras) still have ads which have remained unpaid for several months already," said Suyom.

A former volunteer reporter with local radio station dyKA from 1985 to 1998 where he received a monthly salary of P1,000, Suyom is now Clerk 1 at the provincial board detailed at the office of Vice Gov. Damian Marfil, a close friend of Plameras.

Marfil is Reporma's candidate for governor who belongs to the PnM coalition of Plameras. Suyom accompanies the two during their political sorties.

Suyom claimed that Javier had him axed from dyKA and the Iloilo-based newspaper for which he worked as a correspondent because of his exposés against the governor and his men.

"He couldn't stand my reporting, that is why he keeps on finding ways to get back at me," said Suyom.

He said unlike other media practitioners, he is luckier because he has the Antique Journal, a job at the capitol and a wife who is a teacher.

"Other media men here have to scrounge around. Can you imagine living on P2,000?" said Suyom.

Even getting "harmless" ads requires skill, said Suyom.

Since San Jose is a fifth class municipality, business returns are slow and businessmen have a conservative attitude when it comes to advertising. Often, Iloilo-based newspapers that are circulated in Antique also approach town mayors to have their fiestas and special affairs advertised in their papers.

Suyom said the situation of media practitioners like him in Antique is not surprising because "after all, we also have to live."

For many community media practitioners, the election season is just a short-lived occasion to make money. Some even position themselves in the inner sanctum of politicians to improve the image of candidates. Others were more active by following the candidates in their campaign trail.

Limited budget

In Iloilo City, press conferences this election season became exclusive affairs. Invitations were given to a select few and the venue was not often announced publicly but discreetly through text messages.

When Lacson campaigned in Iloilo in early April, his invitation was limited to a dozen reporters. Lacson would have been good copy as his visit came at about the time he was linked to the kidnap-slaying of Dacer.

However, it was learned that his media handlers were told that Lacson had a "limited budget" and he could not invite many reporters. Those who were chosen received envelopes with P500 inside.

It was also a practice of local candidates to give exclusive press conferences. A candidate for vice mayor in the city formally announced his candidacy last March 30 by inviting a select group of reporters in a restaurant. When others got wind of the meeting and inquired from the candidate if there was a press conference going on, the candidate denied.

When the candidate stood up, his trusted reporters, as if on cue, were giving away envelopes with P500 inside.

Local reporters said the "unofficial tariff" during press conferences is P500. Any amount lower would arouse suspicion that the media handlers, often journalists themselves, are making a cut from the take.

This happened when a press conference was announced by a political clan in Iloilo that fielded two candidates. When reporters learned the envelopes contained P200 and P300, not a few grumbled.

Some candidates who stumped Iloilo's way followed the unofficial rate. In a press conference organized for PnM candidates held at the house of a bosom friend of Miriam Defensor-Santiago, a media handler was handing P500 to reporters.

One reporter even had the audacity to insert his arm in a window of a van where senatorial candidate Umbra Tamano was riding in, arm outstretched as if begging. Fortunately, the reporter withdrew it before the window was closed.

During a sortie of the People Power Coalition in Iloilo, reporters complained that the money for media were distributed toward midnight, long after the press conference was held. Some left in a huff but not before cursing the media handlers for being spendthrift and discriminating against other reporters.

In a recent grand rally in Capiz, a hard-hitting radio commentator asked a candidate to place political ads in their radio program to help the candidate score "pogi points" in the campaign. He made the pitch to the candidate in the presence of his media colleagues who could only smile and shake their heads in disbelief.

In a press conference last month by senatorial hopeful Noli de Castro while in a sortie in Western Visayas, he was overheard wondering aloud why some members of the media came in late for his press conference.

He later learned that the reporters supposed to cover his press briefing were still somewhere else, waiting for the envelopes that were to be handed to them by another senatorial candidate also in the city on the same day.

De Castro himself was the subject of an INQUIRER story that reported that his media handlers allegedly gave P300 each to practitioners who attended his news conference.

Gesture of appreciation

For some media practitioners in Leyte, they saw nothing wrong with accepting the "envelopes" as these were just "gestures of appreciation" from the politicians.

In Leyte, the amounts usually vary from P300 to P2,000 depending on what position a candidate is running for. The money, if not placed inside an envelope, are distributed in full view of everyone present in the news conference.

A former editor of a weekly paper in Leyte who is now working with a government agency said the practice was not new.

She told the INQUIRER that in past elections, when she was still a media practitioner, she had accepted envelopes that contained from P500 to P2,000.

"Eventually, I would accept the money but not without guilt as there was always a struggle on my part not to accept it and every time they handed (the envelope) to me, it just so happened that I was very much in need of (money)," she said.

The former journalist, like Suyom, believed community journalists are vulnerable to corruption because of their meager pay.

In The Reporter, a weekly publication in Leyte and Samar, the editor in chief gets P7,500 a month, including transportation allowance. Editors who also double as reporters receive a basic salary of P5,500, also including transportation allowance.

The paper's correspondents are paid on a per article basis: P200 if the story is used as headline; P150 if the article lands on front page; and P100 for inside pages.

At the Leyte-Samar Daily Express, the only daily newspaper in Eastern Visayas, the editor in chief receives P14,000 a month. Regular writers are paid P6,000 while correspondents are paid P75 per published article

Ethics

David Genotiva, a University of the Philippines Visayas Tacloban College professor and a former columnist of the Leyte Samar Weekly Express, does not believe that the low pay could justify accepting money from politicians.

Genotiva added that journalists who have started receiving money from politicians will find it difficult to refuse the next time similar offers are made to them.

"Once a media man starts to accept money from politicians, then it is clear that he violates the Philippine journalist's Code of Ethics," he said.

Under Section 13 of the Philippine Journalist's Code of Ethics, journalists commit not to accept offers or any presents, or other consideration of that nature which may cast doubt on his professional integrity.

The code is used by the Philippine Press Institute and the Kapisanan ng mga Broadcasters sa Pilipinas as a guideline for practicing print and broadcast journalists.

But except for some media institutions that use the code's ethical standards to sanction erring staff and correspondents, the journalist is left on his own to decide either way.

For one Tacloban-based writer affiliated with a national daily, there was no guilt feeling every time he pocketed a politician's "token of appreciation."

"Why should I feel guilty?" he asked. "You consider P300 bribe? It's cheap."

"But there is no amount of reason you can justify *payola*," said another Leyte-based editor. "Whether a journalist accepts money by justifying he or she has financial problems does not make sense, she still violates his code of ethics."

When asked whether she had experienced receiving money from her news sources, she said there were many instances in the past that she took money especially when she was still new in the industry. But she said that she was always bothered by her conscience, the reason why she said she refused them now.

"I feel bad every time it happens. I feel guilty because I am being bribed," she said.

SAMPLE OFFICIAL BALLOT
MAY 14, 2001

Fill out this ballot secretly inside the booth. Do not put any distinctive marks on any part of the ballot.

SENATORS

1. BOBBY TAÑADA
2. KIKO PANGILINAN
3. MONSOD
4. OBET
5. CHATO
6. HERRERA
7. VILLAR
8. MAGSAYSAY
9. RECTO
10. OSMEÑA
11. ARROYO
12. DRILON
13. FLAVIER

Bakit si Bobby Tañada?

"Matindi ang galit ko sa mga kawatan sa gobyerno. Nilalabanan ko ang katiwalian sa pamahalaan at ipinaglalaban ko ang kapakanan ng taumbayan. Hindi negosyo ang pagpasok sa pulitika kundi pagsisilbi sa mamamayan."

Bakit si Kiko Pangilinan?

Sa simula pa lang, public service na ang pinaghandaan ni Kiko. Sa kolehiyo, sa pagsisilbi sa local government, bilang Free Legal Assistance Group lawyer, at bilang brodkaster. Ayon kay Kiko, "may panahon ang lahat, pati ang pagbabago."

LIBERAL

Bakit dapat iboto ang Liberal Party sa Party List?

IBOTO SA PARTY LIST

Select one from among the Political Parties, Sectoral Parties (Labor, Peasants, Urban Poor, Indigenous Cultural Communities, Women, Veterans, Elderly, Disabled, Fisherfolks, Overseas Workers, Youth or Professionals). Organizations or Coalitions enumerated in the certified list posted on the voting booth.

☑ Lalabanan ang katiwalian sa gobyerno.
☑ Ibabalik ang kapangyarihan sa kamay ng naninindigang mamamayan.
☑ Aalagaan ang kinabukasan ng kabataan.
☑ Isusulong ang maunlad at makakalikasang ekonomiya.

LP
Partido ni Ninoy Aquino at ng Sambayanang Pilipino

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Third Prize	₱50,000
Consolation Prizes (15 winners)	₱10,000 each

METRO MANILA • *FIRST PRIZE:* Lilian S. Cator - Putatan, Muntinlupa City/ Bayanan ES • *SECOND PRIZE:* Aida A. Rocero - San Juan/ Pinaglabanan ES • *THIRD PRIZE:* Tonette Baladhay - Bagong Tanyag, Taguig/ Bagong Tanyag ES • *CONSOLATION PRIZE:* Cynthia S. Coronel - Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City/ Pasig Catholic College • Editha B. Lacbayen - Antipolo City/ Bagong Nayon I ES • Marilou A. Moscoso - Quezon City/ Kamuning ES • Alma B. Alejandrino - Novaliches, QC/ Mababang Paaralan ng Novaliches • Jini J. Dilao - Caloocan City/ E. Rodriguez ES • Alexander L. Silverio - Quiapo, Manila/ F. Balagtas ES • Katherine M. Mendez - Paco, Manila/ STI College Makati • Conchita L. Medina - Payatas, QC/ Madjas-as ES • Romon Arevalo Jr. - Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City/ Makati HS • Victor C. Padilla - San Juan/ Francisco School • Tarcisa C. Saulda - Proj. 8, QC/ Sto. Cristo ES • Roberto N. Ramirez - Sta. Ana, Manila/ Tomas Earnshaw ES * Jaime Carlo Sta. Mariz - Putatan, Muntinlupa City/ Don Bosco Tech. Institute • Marilyn Santos - Navotas/ Rivers of Joy • Siegfred C. Saclanso - Fairview, QC/ Four Square Christian LC

LUZON • *FIRST PRIZE:* Miguela A. Talabis - Sta. Cruz, Laguna/ Pagsawitan ES • *SECOND PRIZE:* Marideth V. Boado - Binalonan, Pangasinan/ St. Louis Univ. • *THIRD PRIZE:* Belen L. Montoya - Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro/ Sto. Niño ES • *CONSOLATION PRIZE:* Micaela Yap Nuque - Cutcut, Angeles City/ Cutcut ES • Nelmar C. Calub - Bauang, La Union/ Calumbaya ES • Evelyn M. Sales - Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro/ Guinobatan ES • Anna Fe S. Callo - Tuguegarao City/ Penque-Ruyu Leonarda ES • Judith B. Diego - Tabaco, Albay/ San Roque ES • Rosita S. Cabili - Matnog, Sorsogon/ Matnog SDA ES • Florentina Aslor - Kamlayan, Naga City/ Don Manuel ES • Ma. Rosario C. Resoso - Dagupan City/ Gen. Gregorio del Pilar ES • Cristina M. Mabini - Daraga, Albay/ Budiao ES • Joremane Rose C. Ramos - Calasiao, Pangasinan/ San Miguel ES • Susan L. Rodriguez - Castillejos, Zambales/ Sta. Maria ES • Dennis Paul Dionisio - Orani, Bataan/ Orani South ES • Carmen T. Pontan - Dasmariñas, Cavite/ Beata ES • Gloria L. Faderanga - Puerto Princesa City/ Palawan National School • Agnes MF Raquel - Matnog, Sorsogon/ Matnog SDA ES

VISAYAS • *FIRST PRIZE:* Jun Anderson Tajanlangit - Tigbaran, Iloilo/ Central Phil. Univ. • *SECOND PRIZE:* Gina C. Villarico - Cebu City/ Pardo National HS • *THIRD PRIZE:* Antonia Lopena - Panglao, Bohol/ Tanguan ES • *CONSOLATION PRIZE:* Ma. Fe Cator - Calbayog City/ Calbayog East Central School • Karina Geronca - Cebu City/ Mabola ES • Gil Anthony Tamo - Molo, Iloilo City/ Central Phil. Univ. of Iloilo • Gilda M. Catinoy - Catbalogan, Samar/ Samar National School • Joan Rosary Aliman - Catarman, N. Samar/ Phil. Univ. Town N. Samar • Brenda E. Tarce - Basey, Samar/ Basey II Central ES • Erlinda Mursilios - Bacolod City/DLCN School Bacolod City • Dominciano Ostria - Tacloban City/ San Fernando ES • Jo-ann A. Cadayao - Guimaras/ Supang Central ES • Marte de Losas - Lapuz, Iloilo City/ Bo. Durung-an ES • Chickie Orencio - Mandurriao, Iloilo City/ Collegio de San Jose • Mariel Lo - Apitong, Tacloban City/ Don Vicente Quientero Mem. School • Elizabeth Monteroso - Palo, Leyte/ Palo Central School • Jinky Sedotes - Arevalo, Iloilo City/ Ramon Avanceña National HS • Winchester Don - Banilad, Mandaue City/ Cebu State Coll. of Sci. & Tech

MINDANAO • *FIRST PRIZE:* Liberty B. Cabugas - Calumpang, Gen. Santos City/ Romana Acharon ES • *SECOND PRIZE:* Rosalinda T. Marba - Carmen, CDO City/ Upper Carmen ES • *THIRD PRIZE:* Precy Apuya - Gen. Santos City/ J. Divina Gracia Sr. ES • *CONSOLATION PRIZE:* Rodelo Bulan - Palomolok, S. Cotabato/ Glamang ES • Dave Alum - Gen. Santos City/ Brgy. San Isidro ES • Luz Pizaña - Sasa, Davao City/ F. Bangoy National HS • Centino Plaza - Tandag, Surigao del Sur/ Bioto ES • Olympia Magallanes - Capistrana, CDO City/ Faith Christian School • Jovelyn Buslangonan - Boston, Davao Oriental/ Boston National HS • Crusente Tuling - Alabel, Sarangi Province/ Spring ES • Carmelita Dumas - Lagao, Gen. Santos City/ Irineo Santiago National HS • Rogelio Marinas - Chico, Zamboanga City/ Baliwasan Central School • Sonia Ivanich - Basag, Butuan City/ Basag ES • Willando Guerra - Surigao City/ UCCP Kindergarden School • Jacqueline Caseres - Valencia, Bukidnon/ Valencia SDA ES • Charlito Inofinada - Mawad, Conval Province/ Tagum National Trade School • Pedrito Baul Sr. - Kaputian Island, Garden City of Samal/ Kanaan National HS • Anselmo Moreno - Datu Piang, Maguindanao/ Day Care Center

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Bug me, Enrile dares gov't on cheating

(From page A1)

Alberto Romulo (finance), and Hernando Perez (justice) could also be held liable should *dagdag-bawas* take place in the May 14 elections.

Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion pointed out that the three departments had representatives in the Boards of Canvassers (BoCs), which tally the votes from the precincts.

Therefore, Concepcion said, Roco, Romulo and Perez should challenge these representatives to "do their patriotic duty by upholding the true will of the people."

"In the event *dagdag-bawas* takes place, the members of the Board of Canvassers should be held accountable for the perpetration of this injustice. Corresponding charges must be filed against them to deliver the message that the education, finance and justice departments really mean business," Concepcion said.

However, he said, Roco, Romulo and Perez could themselves be held liable for the actions of their representatives under the principle of command responsibility.

The BoCs at the city, municipal, provincial and district levels, which are composed of teachers and principals, municipal treasurers and prosecutors, prepare the certificates of canvass supported by the statements of votes.

The certificates of canvass serve as the basis for the proclamation of election winners.

"Members of the BoCs are in a unique position to ensure that the certificates of canvass, which they will sign, are not tampered with or subjected to *dagdag-bawas*," Concepcion said.

Dagdag-bawas is done at the tabulation and canvassing level. Votes are taken from certain candidates and added to the beneficiaries of the scheme, usually through the tampering of actual figures on the election returns and certificates of canvass.

'Singit'

In a statement, Senate President Pro Tempore Blas F. Ople warned against possible election fraud in Mindanao in the form of "*singit*" (insertion) voters.

Ople cited reports from the Commission on Elections about certain judges' alleged practice of adding new names to the voters' lists.

"The report from the Comelec is disturbing. With the national elections only a few days away, the poll body has to act fast on this emerging problem," he said.

Commissioner Resurreccion Borra had earlier accused judges in Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte and Iligan City of adding up to 29,000 names to the certified voters' lists (CVL) in their areas.

Borra said the Comelec would not honor the inclusion orders issued by the municipal and regional trial courts.

He noted that courts usually allowed inclusions and exclusions, but only by tens at the most because every decision must contain a thorough justification of each inclusion or exclusion.

Ople raised fears that the new voters included in the CVL might be used by local and national candidates as "swing votes."

He said the areas cited were known to be the ones that candidates ran to if they were unsure of their chances of winning.

"The elections there are over as of this time," he said, apparently suggesting that the results had already been cooked in the areas cited.

'No-El'

At the press conference, Enrile also denied reports that the opposition was behind the so-called "No-El (No Elections)" scheme.

He claimed that he and Joseph Estrada's other allies did not discuss such a scenario during the recent five-day rallies mounted by supporters of the disgraced ex-president at the Edsa Shrine.

He said he had urged the crowd at Edsa to show its support for Estrada by voting for the opposition ticket.

Malacañang had accused Enrile, Honasan and fellow PnM candidates Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Panfilo Lacson of inciting the crowd to storm Malacañang and overthrow the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Enrile was arrested and detained for four days at Camp Crame before the Supreme Court allowed him to post bail of P100,000.

The high court said the evidence for the rebellion charge against him consisted of "hearsay."

Enrile said he would vote in his home province of Cagayan.

He said he would travel to Cagayan tomorrow and spend the day playing golf to relax. ***With a report from Armand N. Nocum***

Iloilo bet slain; poll death toll now 51

(From page A1)

Local elections have traditionally been the most violent in Philippine elections, particularly in remote areas afflicted by outlaws and armed followers of politicians.

Some 17,000 municipal, provincial and congressional officials are to be elected in midterm voting on Monday.

In Sta. Cruz, Marinduque, at least six supporters of incumbent Rep. Edmund Reyes Jr. (Lakas-NUCD-PPC) were wounded after suspected allies of his political opponent fired at them Thursday morning.

Shooting at Marcopper

The victims, who have been all pronounced out of danger except for one, are now confined at the Marinduque provincial hospital.

The provincial police made it clear that what took place in Barangay Kilo-kilo near the gate of the Marcopper Mining Corp. was not a "planned ambush."

PO4 Venecio Maling told the INQUIRER that the victims were on motorcycles when they chanced upon a group of supporters of Reyes' opponent for the lone congressional seat, Jovito Wilfredo "Jowil" Red.

"After they passed by, gunshots from M-16 rifles were suddenly fired at their direction," Maling said.

Hours later, in San Juan, Metro Manila, an explosion rocked the *miting de avance* of Liberal Party reelectionist Rep. Jose Mari Gonzales and other local candidates. Thirteen people were slightly injured.

Gonzales is running against former Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora.

Chief Supt. George Aliño, Eastern Police District director, said investigators had failed to find evidence that what exploded at the parking lot of St. John Academy in Barangay Pinaglabanan at 9:45 p.m. Thursday was a bomb.

"No fuse, shrapnel, detonation cap or crater was found at the site. We are seriously considering that what exploded was a high-grade pyrotechnic, not a bomb," Aliño said.

He said someone might have thrown the pyrotechnic at the parking lot, but it rolled under a passenger jeepney where it blew off.

He dismissed speculations that a planted bomb caused the explosion, as the vehicle, which carried food for the participants in the *miting de avance*, had been moving in and out of the parking lot.

The bombing of the Liberal Party rally in San Juan brought back painful memories of the party's infamous "Black Saturday" bombing in Plaza Miranda 30 years ago, the political party said.

"The guilty must be swiftly brought to justice. The mastermind must be unmasked. Let this incident not go the way of the Plaza Miranda bombing where the perpetrators have eluded the law," the LP said in a press statement.

The party said it would "no longer allow a repeat of the Plaza Miranda bombing of Aug. 21, 1971" which "nearly wiped out" the LP's senatorial candidates.

But LP senatorial candidate Wigberto Tañada doubts that the explosion at the San Juan rally was part of destabilization moves against the government.

Fiery speech led to shooting

The shooting of Sibya was reportedly triggered by his fiery speech during a grand rally Wednesday night at which he accused Serag among others of using the town's ambulance for private use and racking up a P5-million debt for the town.

But there were two conflicting accounts of the fatal shooting.

Some witnesses claimed that Serag shot Sibya pointblank while others said Sibya tried to wrestle the gun from Serag before the latter shot him.

A barangay captain told radio station MBC-Aksyon Radyo in Iloilo City that he and other supporters of Sibya were resting inside the headquarters when the candidate for mayor informed them that a group of armed men was approaching their place.

The radio station did not identify the barangay captain for security reasons.

A few minutes later, a green Toyota Revo owned by the San Joaquin municipal government arrived at the headquarters. It was accompanied by two passenger jeepneys and two motorcycles, the village chief said.

"Upon seeing the approaching convoy, Sibya approached them alone with the intention of finding the purpose of their early morning visit. But before he could do so, Mayor Serag alighted from the backseat and shot him with a .45 cal. pistol," he said.

After firing at Sibya, more shots rang out before Serag's group left.

The barangay chief said he recognized Serag because it was already 5:20 a.m.

Another witness speaks

Another Sibya supporter told MBC-Aksyon Radyo that Sibya and Serag had grappled first for the gun before the mayor shot his rival.

"Mayor Sibya tried to grab the gun from Mayor Serag but he failed to do so," said the supporter who asked not to be named.

He also claimed there was a burst of gunfire after Sibya was shot.

"(Serag) is a criminal," said Sibya's wife, Daisy, who was confined at the hospital after she fell ill when doctors pronounced her husband dead.

Sibya served as OIC mayor of San Joaquin from 1986 to 1987. He was elected mayor for three terms, from 1988 to 1998. He used to be an ally of the Garins.

Sibya ran for vice governor in 1998 under the opposition ticket organized by the Garins but was defeated.

Sibya headed the Iloilo chapter of the League of Municipal Mayors from 1995 to 1998.

The Comelec had earlier classified the town as an "area of concern."

Rodolfo Sarroza, Comelec regional director, said the town would probably be elevated to an "area of immediate concern," following Sibya's death.

Victor Gaborne, acting provincial Comelec supervisor, said policemen and soldiers were already deployed to San Joaquin after it was declared an "area of concern."

If declared an "area of immediate concern," the Comelec, police and the military would closely monitor the conduct of elections. More police and soldiers would also be fielded to diffuse tension in the town.

Placing the town as an "area of immediate concern" is a step away from placing the town under Comelec control.

In Davao City, Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, said he was optimistic that the election would be "honest, orderly and peaceful" despite the rising number of people killed in election-related violence.

Mendoza said he had issued an order to all PNP units to strictly implement his Letter of Instruction (LOI), "Halalan 2001," seeking to prevent election-related violence.

Director Edgar Galvante, director for operations of the PNP, said they had also instructed the police to confiscate firearms of the bodyguards of the politicians. ***With reports from Armand N. Nocum in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jowel F. Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

COUPLES FOR CHRIST

An excerpt from a memo of the CFC Director to all MM elders:

"Manila, being the center of the country and the focal point for EDSA I and II is critical to the well-being of the entire country. The well-being of Manila is dependent upon having good mayors. But we have seen how some pro-Erap MM mayors have gone all-out to exploit the current situation at EDSA. It is profoundly disturbing to have such leaders.

"Given this intense crisis upon our land, which is not only political but moral and spiritual, the CFC Council has decided to officially oppose the candidacy of pro-Erap mayoralty candidates, and support their pro-democracy opponents. We thus enjoin all our members in MM to be actively involved in opposing evil and promoting stability and peace, through their choice of whom to support and vote for.

"QUEZON CITY
CFC is for
DANTE LIBAN
CFC is against
RUDY FERNANDEZ

"Those mayoralty candidates we are against are openly and strongly pro-Erap. Many have participated in their current EDSA rally and have spoken out to stir up the crowd against the present government. They are a threat to stability and progress. They are instruments of the evil one. They are undeserving of the people's support.

"Our stand is not politicking. During these crucial times, our stand is a moral imperative. Our stand is part of the spiritual warfare that we as Couples of Christ are deeply involved in.

"God bless the Philippines!"

In the service of Christ,
CFC Council
By:

Frank Padilla
CFC Director

THIS AD IS PAID FOR BY FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF DANTE LIBAN

Comelec rushes shipping of forms

(From page A1)

daily sessions since Monday to resolve pending matters like the disqualification complaints against candidates and the transfer of the venue for canvassing in certain areas.

"We might even sleep here, possibly two days before the elections," Benipayo said.

Since May 6, Benipayo has been holding daily news conferences either at the Comelec or in public fora elsewhere in Metro Manila.

Just three months ago, the INQUIRER observed that he appeared to be uneasy with the media, a fact that he admitted owing to his previous low-profile job as administrator of the Supreme Court.

When the INQUIRER noted that he appeared more relaxed lately, Benipayo said "it's good to hear that."

Keep on smiling

"Because as Election Day draws near, the preparations are completed, and the glitches are being resolved. But then on Election Day and after, that is the time the problems will crop up," Benipayo said. "I hope I could keep on smiling."

Comelec commissioner Rex Borra said the transfer of Benipayo's office from the second floor of the Comelec building to the seventh floor of the Palacio del Gobernador was also part of the last phase of the poll body's preparations.

"The chair of the Comelec has to be protected and secured," Borra said.

The six Comelec commissioners, however, have remained at their old offices although their security guards have been beefed up by Marines in light of reports that the Philippine National Police had uncovered a destabilization plot code-named "Oplan Noel (No Elections)."

The plot allegedly involves bombings of key installations, including the Comelec building.

The uncovering of the alleged plot prompted the Armed Forces to place nearly 5,000 troops under the direct disposition of the Comelec.

For Metro Manila, some 600 soldiers have been placed on standby to await Comelec orders for deployment.

Providing muscle to the AFP Task Force National Capital Region are seven armored fighting vehicles, which are ready to roll out of Fort Bonifacio in Makati.

Army vice commander Brig Gen. Arsenio Tecson said at least 4,500 troops nationwide were put under direct Comelec control.

The Comelec had earlier placed six provinces, six cities, 57 municipalities, five barangays and two sitios in 12 regions under its direct control to avert possible violence on May 14 elections up the proclamation of winners in June.

Task Force HOPE

The troops are part of the AFP's Task Force HOPE 2001. Hope is the acronym for honest, orderly and peaceful elections.

During elections, the Comelec can deputize the entire Armed Forces and the PNP.

But unlike in past elections, the Armed Forces is highly visible. It parades before the media its troops and armor assets ready for the elections.

The show of force is obviously intended to ward off would-be saboteurs.

Tecson led the ceremonial "send-off" of a section of Task Force NCR, comprising of about a hundred soldiers and four armored vehicles, when in fact they would be awaiting orders within Fort Bonifacio itself.

"They will be here," Tecson admitted.

Tecson added: "This ceremony is now being duplicated in all military divisions throughout the country."

The Army has eight infantry divisions nationwide and each will commit anywhere between 500 and 600 troops to the Comelec, according to Tecson.

Liquor ban

A ban on the selling, offering, buying, serving or taking of liquor shall be in effect from May 13 to midnight of Election Day. On Election Day, it will also be illegal to give or accept free transportation, food, drinks and "things of value."

Also prohibited are the holding of fairs, cockfights, boxing, horse races and similar sports; and the opening of booths or stalls for the sale of merchandise and refreshments within a 30-meter radius of the polling precincts. ***With a report from Marionne Acabado***

Survey: 8 PPC bets . . .

(From page A1)

within striking distance of the winning circle, according to the survey.

But it looks like the PnM hopefuls are competing among themselves. They are separated from each other by less than 5 percent. Pulse Asia cited reelectionist Sen. Gregorio Honasan's 29.1 percent to Loi Estrada's 24.4 percent.

The following are Pulse-Asia's rankings of the candidates as per its latest pre-election survey:

1. Noli de Castro; 2. Sergio Osmeña; 3. Franklin Drilon; 4. Juan Flavier; 5.Ralph Recto; 6. Ramon Magsaysay Jr.; 7.Francis Pangilinan; 8. Joker Arroyo; 9. Manuel Villar; 10.Edgrdo Angara; 11. Gregorio Honasan; 12. Miriam Defensor-Santiago; 13. Wigberto Tañada; 14. Panfilo Lacson; 15. Ernesto Herrera; 16. Ricardo Puno; 17. Orlando Mercado; 18. Roberto Pagdanganan; 19. Juan Ponce Enrile; 20. Solita Monsod; 21. Loi Ejercito.

Ibagsak ang tunay na kalaban, Itumba ang kahirapan.

Parang isang bangungot. Nilusob ng mga kapatid nating maralita ang Malakanyang. Nagka-duguan. Rumupok ang pagkakaisa ng Pilipino. Nahati ang bayan.

Kasalukuyan nang iniimbestigahan ang mga utak ng rebelyon. Ang mga kapatid nating maralita ay binibigyan na ng kaukulang tulong ng pamahalaan. Si Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ay nagbigay na ng utos na siguruhin na maayos ang kalagayan ng mga demonstrador na nasa kulungan at, kasabay nito, na walang nilalabag na karapatang pantao. Ipinag-utos din ng Pangulo na pawalan na ang mga demostrador at tulungang makauwi sa kani-kanilang probinsya o tahanan. Bigyan ng pamasahe, kung kinakailangan.

Ito ay hindi laban ng mayaman sa mahirap o simbahan sa kapwa simbahan. Ito ay Pilipino laban sa kahirapan. Magkakaroon ng tunay na kaunlaran at katahimikan kung malulutas ang kakulangan ng trabaho, hanapbuhay o negosyo, bubong sa ulo, pagkain sa bawa't mesa, edukasyon para sa kabataan at pabahay.

Maibubuwal natin ang kahirapan kung magkakapit-bisig ang gobyerno at pribadong sektor, ang manggagawa at mamumuhunan, ang mayaman at mahirap.

Ibalik natin ang tiwala sa ating kapwa.
Ibalik natin ang tiwala sa ating sarili, sa ating kakayahan.
Ibalik natin ang tiwala sa ating pamahalaan, sa ating bayan.
Ibalik natin ang tiwala sa ating Panginoon.

Isang paghamon ng Diwa ng EDSA

ADVT.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Espinosa now under Rivera's son

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

DON'T count Luisito Espinosa out yet.

In a dramatic twist to a checkered career spanning almost two decades now, the former two-time, world boxing champion has signed a contract to resume fighting.

It had come as a surprise since it had been generally understood that Espinosa retired after suffering his third straight defeat sometime ago to Mexican Ogie Sanchez.

Previous to that, Espinosa lost to Cesar Soto and Guty Espadas, both Mexicans.

Because of those fights' disastrous results (all by knockout), Espinosa was deemed retired.

The contract was signed on May 9 in Daly City in San Francisco, California, where Espinosa is based together with his wife and two children.

Bar back

Before the contract-signing, Espinosa was eking out a living as a bar back at Solita's Pub & Restaurant in Daly City. A bar back quarterbacks the bar tender by washing glasses used by customers.

His wife, Marie Cherie, is an office clerk. She signed the contract as a business associate/witness together with Ric Pasaoa, an amiable retired engineer at the San Francisco International Airport.

And who is Espinosa's new manager?

Noel Rivera, a BS Biology graduate of the California State University-Hayward who is popularly known as the eldest son of the eminent boxing man Hermie Rivera.

The elder Rivera was Espinosa's discoverer who made Espinosa world champion in 1989. Espinosa's knockout victory over Khaokor Galaxy made him the first Filipino to become a WBA world bantamweight (118 lbs) champion.

Another chance

Espinosa, who gathered bamboos and made them into for-sale banana cue sticks while he was growing up in Tondo, lost his crown in a failed 1991 third defense against Israel Contreras at the Big Dome.

But he came back several years later to win the WBC featherweight crown (126 lbs) and become the first Filipino ever to hold two world crowns in two divisions.

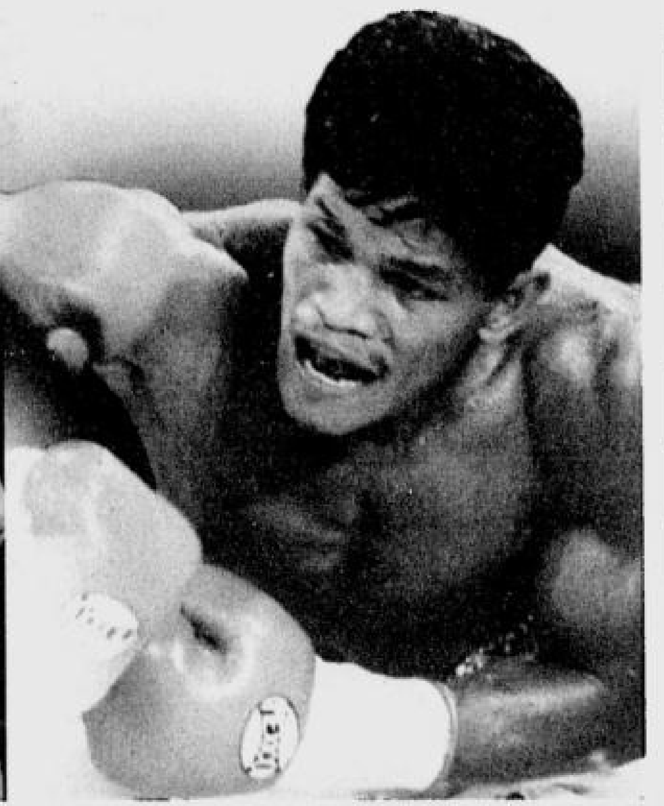
After several successful defenses, he lost his crown anew—and then it was downhill from there.

Losing his ego and pride, Espinosa shuttled from one pseudo-manager to another and his tupsy-turvy lifestyle soon led to that string of losses to Soto, Espadas and Sanchez that virtually wrote finis to his boxing career.

"He came to me and asked me to become his manager, that he be given another chance," said Noel Rivera in his e-mail to this writer yesterday. "He told me, '*Kayo naman ng Papa* (Hermie Rivera) *mo ang talagang gunawa sa akin. Gusto ko ibalik ninyo ang dati kong galing.*' At first, I hesitated. But with his persistence, and because he is like a brother to me, I obliged."

More than brothers

NOEL Rivera, with his son, Grant.



ESPINOSA: One more chance.

FILE PHOTO

Espinosa is a year younger than Noel.

When the boxer was brought to America by Hermie Rivera in 1986, Espinosa was barely 18. His relationship with Noel would soon become a sterling example of how two total strangers could become more than brothers.

"How can I say no to my son?" said Hermie when this writer inquired about his reaction after Noel had asked for his blessing to take Espinosa under his wings.

Hermie retired from managing boxers after he left Espinosa in 1991 despite a live contract following differences with Espinosa's wife. In 1992, Rivera made Morris East the WBA junior welterweight king (140 lbs).

Passes neurological test

Noel Rivera said that before he agreed to become Espinosa's manager, "I made sure that Louie would pass the neurological, psychological and physical tests."

Espinosa passed all three tests "with flying colors" at the Washington Hospital in Fremont, California.

"Louie is now in deep training at the gym owned by Miguel Jara," said Noel. "Mr. Jara has graciously allowed us to use his gym for free."

Jara (Hermie's bosom friend) is a Mexican fight manager who had three of his wards fight for world titles: two of them were Gerardo Martinez and Hector Lizarraga. Unfortunately, all three lost.

Too old at 34?

Espinosa's current trainer is Mike Javier, who briefly joined the national boxing pool last year under the wings of Manny Lopez of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines.

"Mike is OK. But I'm looking for a trainer in the mold of a Toti Sangalang," said Hermie. "Mike will be his assistant. Toti (he died of cancer last January) is almost irreplaceable. Without Toti, I would not have made Espinosa champion in 1989."

But isn't Espinosa a bit too old now? In 55 fights, he won 45, 24 by knockout.

Espinosa, the son of a Malacañang waiter in the days of Marcos, will turn 34 on June 26, the same day that Hermie Rivera and Tina Pasaoa tied the knot in 1966.

"Thirty-four isn't old," Hermie said. "On the contrary, many boxers peak between 32 and 37."

Muhammad Ali was 33 when he beat Joe Frazier in the classic Thrilla in Manila on Oct. 1, 1975, at the Cubao Big Dome.

Behind the scenes

The elder Rivera said he might tap Hector Miravilla, a hugely-built Mexican with a jovial mood, to be Espinosa's full-time trainer.

"Hector knows his business," said Hermie. "I think he'll get the job."

But Hermie emphasized that he'd be "just working from behind the scenes."

Said Hermie: "It's now my son calling the shots. I wish him and Louie all the luck."

Hornets defeat Bucks, 102-92

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina —The Charlotte Hornets finally found their spark and figured out how to slow Ray Allen just in time to climb back into their playoff series against the Milwaukee Bucks.

Jamal Mashburn scored a career-playoff high 36 points and the Hornets held Allen to just six points in the second half in a 102-92 win over the Bucks in Game 3 of the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinal series Thursday night.

Milwaukee still has a 2-1 lead in the series, but the victory showed that the Hornets, who were listless in the first two games, aren't going down without a fight. Game 4 is Sunday in Charlotte.

The Hornets were much more aggressive than they had been in the first two games, especially on the glass and in their drives to the basket. They outrebounded Milwaukee 57-35 and scored 44 points in the paint.

And after falling into deep holes in the first two games, the Hornets stayed even with the Bucks until the second half. Then Charlotte shut down Allen and slowly pulled away.

UE prevails

UNIVERSITY of the East beat Adamson, 65-58, yesterday for its third victory in four games in the 7th Fr. Martin Cup at Philsports. Coach David Zamar's Warriors overcame a 30-35 halftime deficit to gain solo third in Group B of the tournament sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines under Gonzalo "Lito" Puyat II and jointly sponsored by Agfa, Photo Plus, Red Bull and Smart-Piltel.

Milo jr tennis on

THE MILO Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop, the country's only mass-based, year-round, professionally administered program to promote and teach tennis to young people, resumes today its 4th leg at the Sancase Tennis Club in Banilad, Cebu City.

It will end tomorrow.

The program, now on its 10th straight year, consists of the Junior Tennis Cup, an age group tournament held over three days, and the Regional Workshop, a free beginners' clinic open to 5-year-olds and above.

The tournament is sanctioned by the Philippine Tennis Association.

Giovanni Soliman Mamawal, the program's director, said the project was born because of tennis' immense popularity.

It has 11 legs this year, culminating in the Year-End Age Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center on Dec. 26-30.

Venus upset

BERLIN—Venus Williams struggled all day and Justine Henin slammed winners and the result was the rising Belgium teen-ager's biggest career win Thursday at the German Open. The 18-year-old needed four match points but stunned the reigning Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion, 6-1, 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals of the $1.185 million event. "Not every day is your day. What can I say?" said Williams, losing for just the third time this year.

Mandaluyong derby today

BIG-TIME cockfighting resumes at Mandaluyong Coliseum today as the "Ucap Matchmaker 4-Cock Derby" sizzles at 6 p.m., bannering more than 50 fights. Derby hosts are veteran Ucap matchmakers Goody Lamboloto and Ariel Garovillo.

Sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc., the event is a follow-up to the 11th Ucap/EGT Stingers Phoenix TR 6-Cock Derby last Thursday, won by Pol Estrellado's Sagupaan PB San Pablo entry, which posted six straight wins.

Today's competitors and their respective entries are Ucap president Butch Macasaet (BJ Greenwood I), Vic Yu (King Boxer and Mandaluyong International), *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio (Sagupaan), Raymond Velayo and Boy Diaz (Arnis Master II), Ram Lopez (Altuz), Joey Lapid (Roadmaster), Esting Teopaco (EGT Stingers), Pol Estrellado (Sagupaan PB San Pablo), Lito Orillaza (Jobo), Mauro Prieto (Anito BM) and Rudy Salud.

Meanwhile, the LCC 5-Cock Derby is set for May 17, with Louie Cua and Company as hosts.

Gonzales nips Arriola at Sherwood

KATRINA Gonzales nipped Ersa Arriola in a sudden-death to win the girls Class A plum even as DJ Padilla pulled off a breakthrough win in boys Class B in the Sherwood Hills Jungolf Open, the seventh leg of the Jungolf summer circuit recently.

The 14-year-old Gonzales, daughter of a Prudential executive, parred the extra hole to earn her sixth leg title in the series sponsored by Northwest Airlines and supported by Globe and Skyway.

Padilla, winner of the NGAP age-group crown, fired a one-under 71 in the second round on the way to a four-stroke victory over Gerard Arriola as the other circuit standouts—Justin Tambunting, Nony Negrido and Rhiz de Roca—struggled.

Winning their respective divisions were Korean Woo Ram Suh in boys Class A, Miko Alejandro in Class C, John Kier Abdon in Class D and Joshua Uy in Class E. The other girls winners were Jayvie Agojo (Class B), Geleen Handog (Class C), Debbie de Villa (Class D) and Dottie Ardina (Class E).

Woods 4 behind

IRVING, Texas—Tiger Woods returned to the PGA Tour with a 66 despite his first double bogey in 117 holes. Scott Verplank returned home with far less fanfare and had a little more to celebrate Thursday in the Byron Nelson Classic. Verplank, who grew up in Dallas and developed his game in the hot Texas wind, was bogey-free in blustery conditions and matched the best score of his career with an 8-under 62 that gave him a two-stroke lead.

Obosa tops Cruz-Tulagan bikefest

ERIC Obosa posted his first major victory last Tuesday, ruling the Cruz-Tulagan Cycling Challenge in San Carlos City. Obosa clocked 4 hours, 12 minutes and 33 seconds for the 168-kilometer route covering the central towns of Pangasinan. He won P10,000 plus a trophy in the race sponsored by Representatives Teddy Cruz and Gener Tulagan.

Joseph Millanes of Moncada, Tarlac, placed second, while Mangaldan's Renato Sembrano captured third. They pocketed P7,000 and P5,000, respectively.

Sixty-three riders, including the Philippine team members, answered the starting gun, according to race director Jess Garcia.

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Zed bags podium honors

THE ZED Gulf Oil MP Turbo Drivers squeezed out everything from their 5-year-old Hyundai Elantras to bag podium honors in the 3rd and 4th rounds of the Philippine Junior Touring Car Championships held at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas, a fortnight ago.

The team is being supported by BLTB Co., Outback Restaurant, Dyno Max Car Shop, Goma King Trading, Hankook Batteries, AER Engine Rebuilders, Abante Newspaper, Universal Motors Corporation and the Francisco Motors Corporation.

Carlos Anton and George Apacible came up second and third behind Carlo Pastor in both races to remain on track in their respective quests for the titles in their respective classes.

Anton had to drive 100 percent to keep his fatigued Elantra at pace with the fresh Toyota Corolla GLI of Pastor to salvage two second-place finishes in Class A.

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Race 2—2. Star of Arabia 2. Timber Nectar 3. Magic Fingers 4. Dona Evelyn

Race 3—1. Lovely Luigi 2. Gold Honors

Race 4—1. Dressed to Impress 2. Give and Take 3. Very Sharp 4. Memorabilia

Race 5—1. Chances Are 2. Kokoro 3. Luxor 4. Shanghai Lord

Race 6—1. Tenacity 2. Lady Victoria 3. Sand Splash 4. Summit Power

Race 7—1. Patutina 2. Priceless 3. His Excellency 4. Shot Gun

Race 8—1. Super Sharp 2. Project Genesis 3. Gifted Guest

Race 9—1. Boss Lino 2. Little Red 3. Lucky Gambit 4. Angelovich

Race 10—1. Achilles Heels 2. Native Talent 3. Rainmaker 4. Accommodating

Race 11—1. Four Freedoms 2. Adrenalin

Race 12—1. Grand Dancer 2. Timeless Beauty 3. Hurry King 4. Terminal Bound

Race 13—1. Touch of Jax 2. Dyamite Jack 3. Maid of Kalibo

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Nat'l sport climbing meet

THE 2001 San Mig Light National Sport Climbing Competition was held recently at the Escape Gym of the Holy Child School in Davao City. Another regional competition will be held on May 16-20 in Legaspi City. Participants in at least two legs can join the main championship from Sept. 15-23 at the Glorietta Activity Center. For details, call Sports Climbing Association of the Philippines at 0918-9020754 or IMG at 751-6752.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

RP amateur draws 102 golfers

THE 2001 Philippine amateur golf championship begins on Tuesday with at least 102 players competing at the Alabang Country Club course. Defending champion Angelo Que heads the entry list, which will also include former titlists Emilio Tuason, Francis Gaston, ex-pro Rolly Viray and Artemio Murakami, who made history in 1999 as the youngest winner of the event. The six-day tournament will be conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

NBA SEMIS

Iverson's performance one for the ages

PHILADELPHIA —Allen Iverson slashed his spindly body through traffic, hurled himself into the lane and tantalized helpless defenders with rainbow jumpers.

He toyed with Chris Childs on one play, jab-stepping and faking, before unleashing a 6.6-meter (22-foot) shot that beat the first-half buzzer and left the Raptors guard wondering which direction was the locker room.

The smallest player on the court—generously listed at 1.83 meters (6-feet) and 74 kilograms (165 pounds)—scored a career-high 54 points in an incredible display of penetrating drives and long-range shooting.

Iverson's performance Wednesday night tied for the fifth-highest in NBA playoff history, turned some of his teammates into spectators and others into cheerleaders. It electrified the fans and mesmerized a national audience.

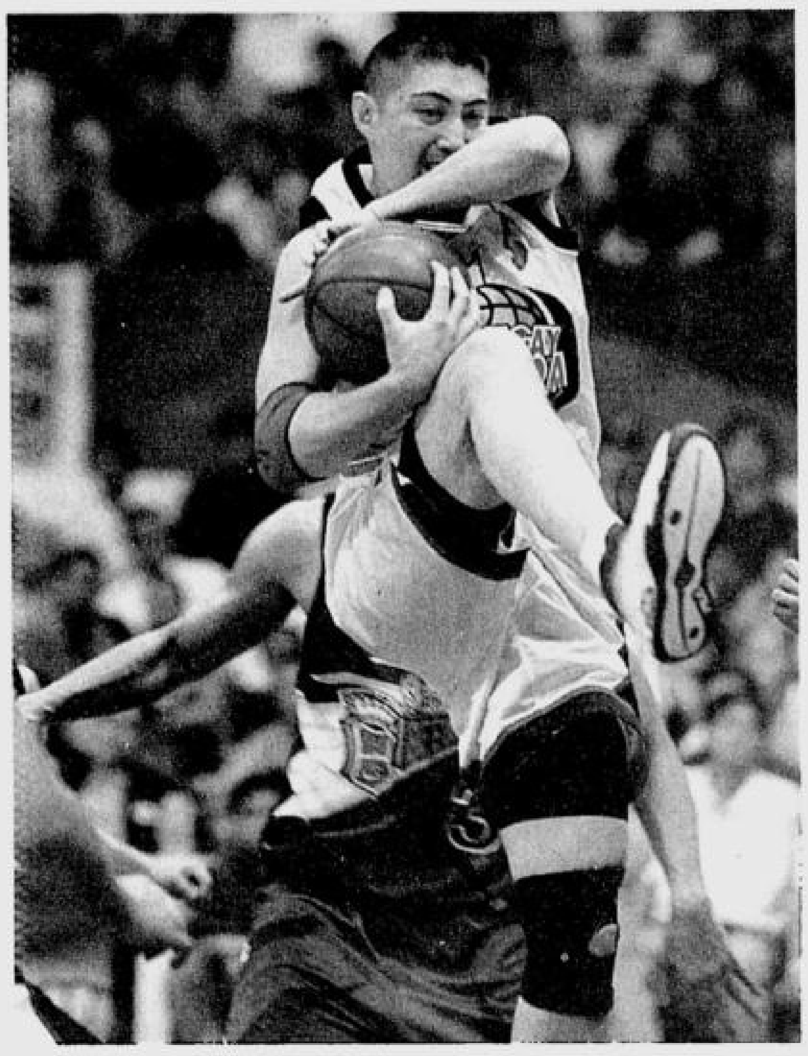
Most importantly, Iverson single-handedly led the Philadelphia 76ers to a 97-92 Game 2 victory over Toronto that evened the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinals.

"I was watching a lot, watching and amazed," 76ers point guard Eric Snow said Thursday. "If anybody in that arena didn't believe I was giving him the ball, I don't think they know anything about basketball. If a guy is filling it like that, why would you go to anything else?"

Only five players had more points in a playoff game—Michael Jordan, Wilt Chamberlain, Elgin Baylor, Charles Barkley and Rick Barry. None was smaller than 1.96 meters (6-foot-5)."

But Iverson does it with lightning-fast quickness, boundless energy and an unyielding desire to win.

"I always feel the only person who can stop me is myself," Iverson said after shooting 21-of-39 from the field and 9-for-9 from the foul line. *AP*



GINEBRA'S Elmer Lago grabs the rebound in Game 2 of the Gin Kings' PBA All-Filipino finals against San Miguel Beer. The Beermen won, 89-72. Game 3 is being played at presstime. ROMY HOMILLADA

PBA at malls

EXCITEMENT pervaded the SM Supermalls with the visit of top PBA players as part of PBA Timeout.

The Tanduay Rhummasters delighted the crowd at SM Cebu and Iloilo, while the Alaska Aces shook hands with fans at SM North Edsa. The Mobiline Phone Pals went to SM Southmall and SM North Edsa, while the Pop Cola Panthers shopped at SM Bacoor and Southmall.

Paintmasters shoot for 4th Group A slot

WELCOAT'S roller-coaster ride in the elimination round ends today with the Paintmasters eyeing an all-important win over surprising Ana Freezer in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

A victory by Welcoat over Ana in their 4 p.m. encounter will complete the four-team Group A quarterfinals cast. It will relegate Pharmaquick to the Group B bracket regardless of the result of its 2 p.m. game against Ateneo-Pioneer.

Welcoat and PharmaQuick are both sporting similar 4-3 cards, with the Paintmasters emerging with the higher quotient in case they finished tied at 5-3.

GIV Beauty Soap has already joined early qualifiers Shark (8-0) and Ana (6-1) with a 5-3 card. It will finish with a front-running 1.03 quotient case of a three-way tie for third.

"There's no other way but to win," said Welcoat mentor Junel Baculi. Due to their inconsistent showing, Welcoat has been relegated to the sidelines by rivals Shark and Ana.

Amateur basketball player of the year Ren Ren Ritualo banners Welcoat's attack. *Dennis U. Eroa*

STANDINGS	W	L
Shark	8	0
Ana Freezer	6	1
GIV Soap	5	3
Welcoat	4	3
PharmaQuick	4	3
Hapee	3	5
Ateneo-Pioneer	2	5
Montaña	2	6
Osaka	0	8

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Ateneo-Pioneer vs PharmaQuick
4 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs Ana Freezer

Abadia cops singles title

TOP seed Adelo Abadia rallied past second pick Rolando Ruel Jr., 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, yesterday to pocket the singles title in the P100,000 Mandaue City Men's Tennis Open at the Mantads court.

It was the second straight title for Abadia, a former RP Davis Cupper, after the Bacolod Open last week. He won P20,000 in cash and 100 Philta points.

The doubles title went to Fitzgerald Tabora and Cliff Acuso, who scored a 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 victory over third seeds Pio Tolentino and Jesus Lapore. Tabora and Acuso shared the P10,000 top purse.

Kitefest holds final leg at Rizal Park

THE BEAR Brand Kitefest, the largest and most prestigious kite flying festival in the country, winds up its 2001 season with the holding of its final leg at the Rizal Park in Metro Manila tomorrow.

The Kitefest previously visited Dumaguete, Cagayan de Oro, Kalibo, Davao, Lingayen, Tagbilaran, Baguio and Puerto Princesa as part of a whirlwind tour that began last February.

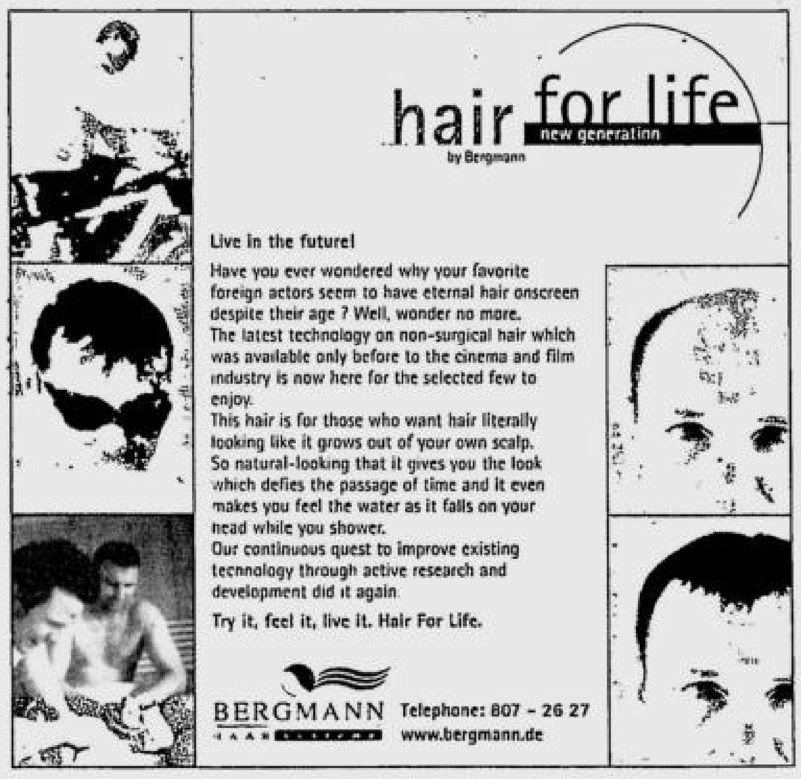
This year's Kitefest introduced well-received innovations. Participants were now split into four divisions, according to their age levels: elementary, for those aged six to twelve; high school, thirteen to sixteen; college, seventeen to twenty-one; and adult; twenty-one and above. Elementary division contestants may join the two-dimensional flat kite category; while those in the high school, college and adult divisions may enter the three-dimensional geometric and figure kite categories.

The Bear Brand Kitefest is open to all individuals, families or groups of friends. Cash prizes and trophies will be given to winners. A special prize will also be given to the Super Kite awardee—the largest kite to fly that day.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 7:30 a.m. (r- 7:30 p.m.) on ESPN
NBA Conference Semifinals, Philadelphia vs Toronto, Game 3 at 8 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on ESPN
Asian Basketball Show at 12:30 p.m. on Star Sports
NBA Inside Stuff at 5:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
1988 Los Angeles Lakers —Back To Back at 6:30 p.m. on ESPN
BOXING: Primer—Felix Trinidad vs William Joppy at 1 p.m. on RPN 9
MOTOR SPORTS: SBK Superbike Magazine Highlights at 8:30 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on Star Sports
2001 F1 Qualifying—Austrian Grand Prix Qualifying at 7 p.m. on Star Sports



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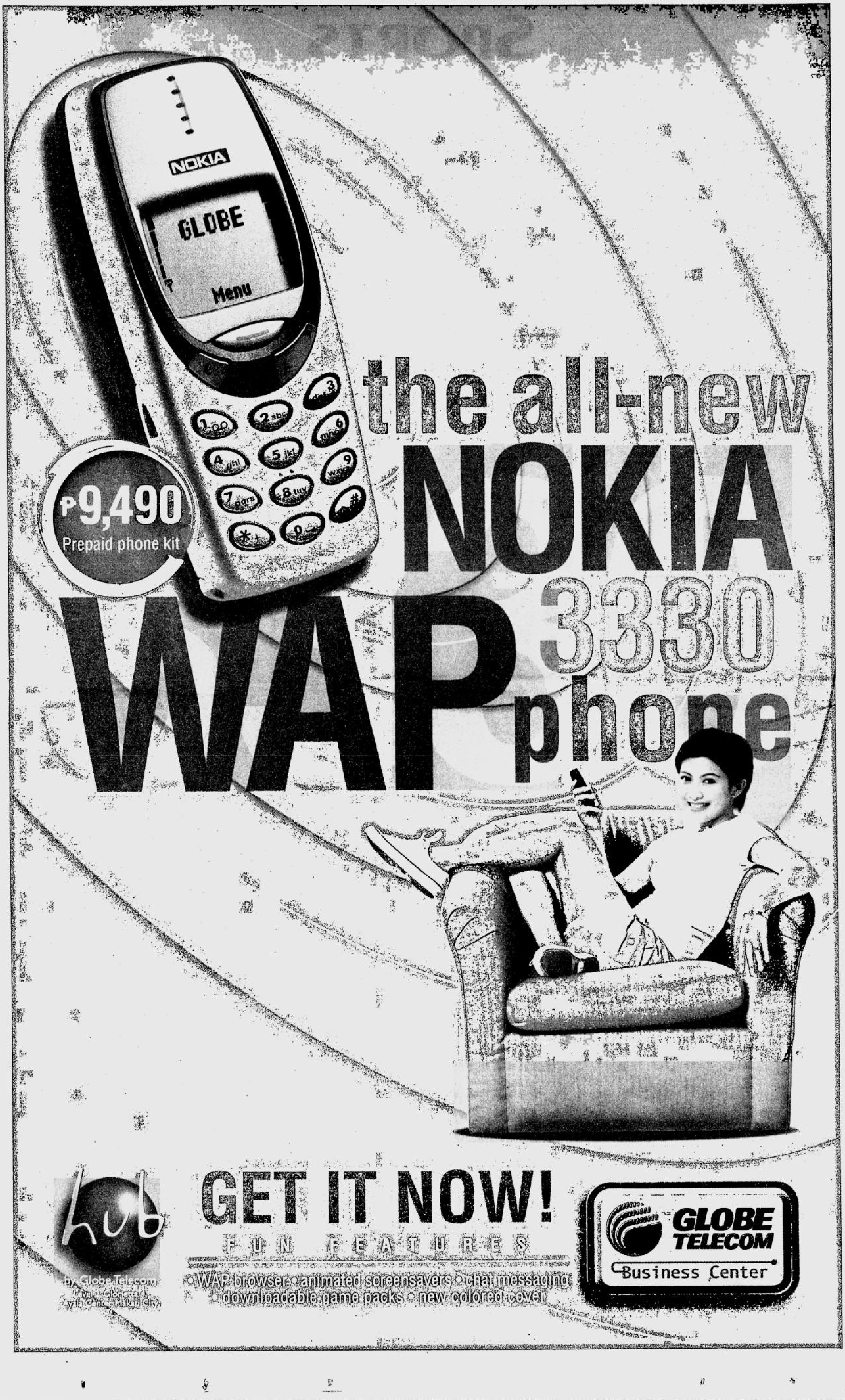

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Voter's Voice 2001 A27

Ombudsman to probe 4 for plunder

By Michael Lim Ubac, Agnes Donato and Alcuin Papa

THE Office of the Ombudsman will investigate two Metro Manila mayors, a former mayor and a mayoral aspirant in connection with the plunder charges filed against them this week.

They are Lito Atienza of Manila, Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos Jr. of Mandaluyong, his father former Mayor Abalos Sr., and Pasay Vice Mayor Greg Alcera.

Atienza and Abalos Jr. are vying for a second term. Alcera is running for mayor against incumbent Pasay Mayor Peewee Trinidad.

Abalos Sr. is now chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority after a 12-year term as Mandaluyong mayor. His son Benhur replaced him in 1998.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto yesterday said his office would subpoena Atienza, Abalos father and son, Alcera and the other respondents next week, possibly on Monday, election day.

Desierto said his office would investigate the complaints and would no longer conduct a fact-finding inquiry, noting that ample evidence had been submitted to back up the charges.

"It appeared the complainants had attached evidence to the complaint sheets," Desierto said. "Thus, there's no more need for a fact-finding investigation."

On Thursday, Pasay Mayor Trinidad filed a plunder complaint against Vice Mayor Alcera and City Councilor Romulo Cabrera.

But according to an Ombudsman lawyer, the charges against Alcera and Cabrera would not prosper in court because Trinidad only sent a letter of request for an investigation and had not executed an affidavit.

The lawyer, who asked not to be named, said Trinidad did not have enough evidence to warrant probable cause, which was why Trinidad's camp only sent a request to the Ombudsman.

Trinidad earlier claimed his rival was liable for the anomalous disbursement of P57.9 million from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and the mysterious disappearance of a P3-million-a-month voluntary assistance fund from Pagcor since 1998.

Alcera brushed off the charges, saying they were "unsubstantiated and politically motivated."

Alcera yesterday said Trinidad "failed

OMBUDSMAN/A27

Manila police all ready for Monday polls

By Jerome Aning

THE WESTERN Police District yesterday said it would deploy 1,900 more policemen in Manila to maintain peace and order in the capital during Monday's elections.

WPD director Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. said the additional police personnel would complement the 2,292 regular policemen from WPD's 11 stations and various support units.

He said the situation in Manila "remains peaceful despite the black propaganda being employed by some of the candidates against their opponents.

Pasinos said "there were no reports that candidates will use violence or terrorism as well as dirty tricks during the elections."

But he added that all policemen should still be on their guard for reports of intimidation of voters, threats of harm on candidates and poll watchers, ballot snatching, flying voters and vote buying.

Although the Commission on Elections did not declare Manila or any of its districts as hotspots, Pasinos listed as "areas of concern"

MANILA/A27

PAOCTF member gave grenades, say 'Martilyo Gang' suspects

By Dave M. Veridiano

SOME BIG personalities might be behind the destabilization efforts of the May 14 elections.

Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said that the five arrested members of the "Martilyo Gang" allegedly involved in the recent jewelry shop robberies and grenade blasts in Metro Manila malls have admitted that an agent of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force had supplied them the grenades they used in their heists.

Gualberto said that they are looking into a possible connection between the gang members' confession and intelligence reports linking former PAOCTF chief Panfilo Lacson, and fellow opposition senatorial bet Gregorio Honasan and their classmate Brig. Gen. Marcelino "Jake" Malajacan

PAOCTF/A27

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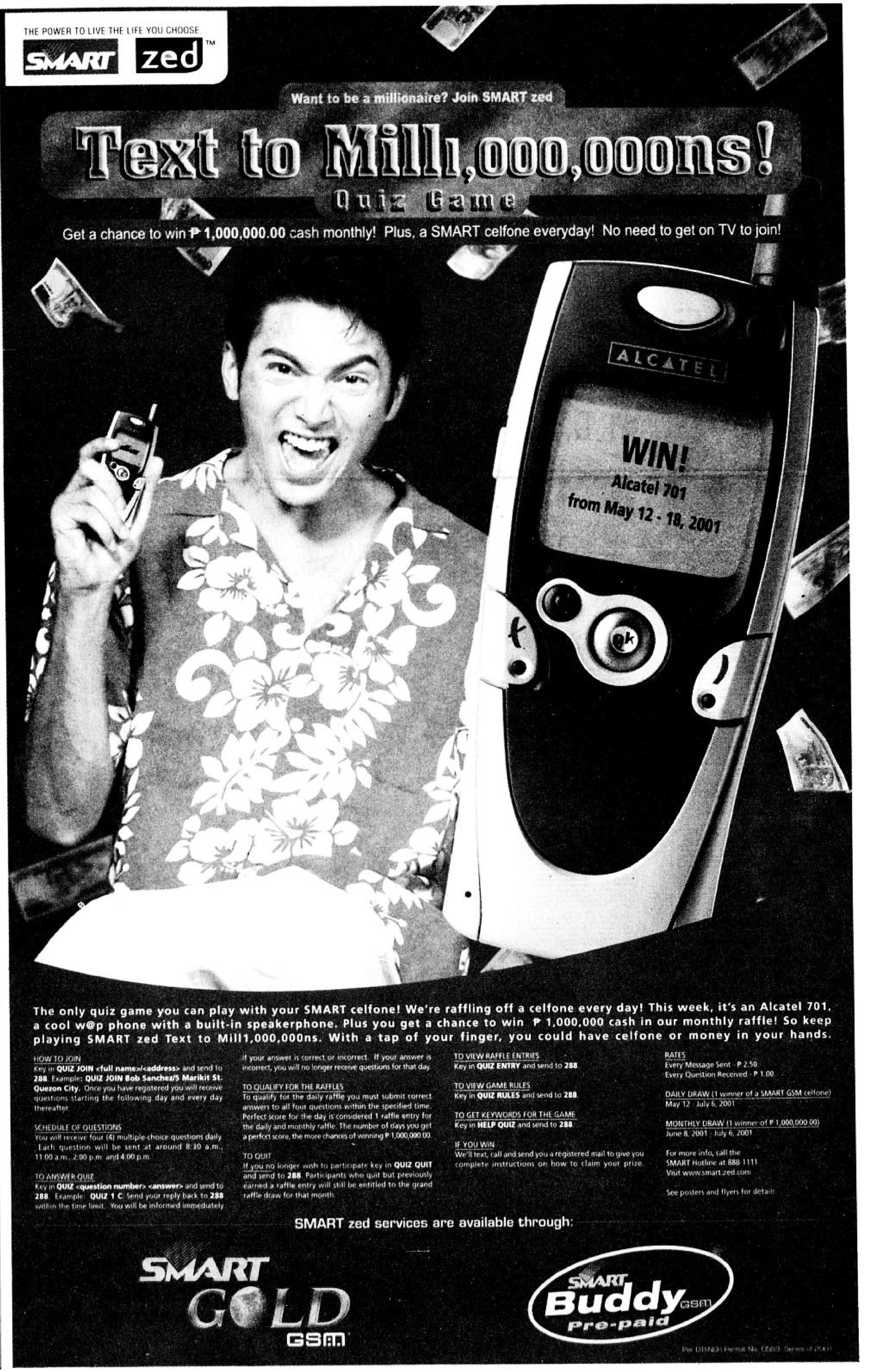

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Who I will vote for

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

ON MONDAY, you, the voters, will go to the polls to elect leaders who will run our country on the local and national levels.

Please vote wisely. Vote on the basis of issues, not personalities.

You have seen how the one person whom we elected to the country's highest office on account of his popularity screwed up the Office of the President.

* * *

In electing your public officials, you should ask yourself these questions:

—If a candidate is running for reelection, was he or she so good at his or her job that he ought to have a second or third term?

—If he or she is running for the first time, what outstanding qualifications and qualities does he or she have to be elected?

Emphasis should given to outstanding qualifications and qualities.

* * *

Does his profession or calling qualify him for the position he seeks? If he's an entertainer, ask yourself if the candidate has qualities that may suit the office he seeks. He may be an actor but can he use his acting skills in the position he's seeking? Perhaps he has qualities, like honesty and a brilliant mind, that will suit the position.

People elected Erap President of the Republic because they mistook his acting skill for a qualification for the job.

The poor and ignorant masses thought—many of them still think—that Erap would solve their problems as President because they forgot about their problems when they saw him playing the hero's role.

It turned out Erap was the villain himself in real life. He now stands accused of plundering government coffers and stealing from the poor by accepting bribes from *jueteng*, a poor man's game.

* * *

The poor and uneducated voters can be forgiven for electing Joseph Estrada, the actor, because they couldn't separate fact from fantasy. They are always in a dreamlike state because of hunger. Mirage becomes real to a man deprived of basic necessities like food. Erap is a mirage to the poor.

But can you forgive "educated" voters who elected Erap? Many in the middle and upper classes now disclaim him but they, like their poor and ignorant brethren, also installed the former actor in Malacañang.

I was one such voter. For crying out loud, I thought that he was cute, having several girlfriends aside from his wife! But I soon realized that a person who holds public office—especially the No. 1 office of the land—should be as pure and chaste as driven snow, at least in public. In short, he should be discreet in his illicit affairs. Erap flaunted his immorality like a badge of honor.

Also, I thought that because of his vaunted success as mayor of San Juan, he would become a successful "mayor" of the entire country. Just like Ronald Reagan, governor of California, who became a successful US president. That was a stupid comparison, of course!

* * *

What have the citizens learned from the Erap experience?

Let's hope Filipino voters will vote wisely on Monday, May 14, because they and the Indian voters have the same experience with movie stars.

A couple of years ago, India elected popular movie stars to high government posts. India and the Philippines have something in common when it comes to the electorate: the poor and ignorant voters in both countries outnumber the educated ones.

India voters realized that movie stars didn't solve their problems. The actors and actresses became the problem. They were booted out in the next elections.

* * *

So, who will I vote for on Monday?

I vote in Quezon City where the candidates for mayor are Speaker Sonny Belmonte and actor Rudy Fernandez. It's obvious who I will vote for.

For senators, I will vote for the following and will give short reasons why I will vote for them:

Manny Villar, Bobby Tañada, Juan Flavier, Sergio Osmeña Jr., Frank Drilon, Joker Arroyo, Winnie Monsod, Jun Magsaysay, Dong Puno, Johnny Ponce Enrile, Ed Angara, Orly Mercado, and Miriam Santiago.

Why Enrile and Santiago, two very unpopular personalities?

Because Enrile, even if he voted not to open the envelope in Erap's impeachment trial, is a brilliant lawyer and lawmaker. We need a watchdog in the Senate. Because of his constant criticisms of Meralco, the power company lowered its rates.

And Santiago? Just like Enrile, we need another gadfly in the Senate in the person of Miriam. After all, isn't it the job of the legislative branch of government to act as a check and balance to the Executive department? Santiago is a genius. Listen to her talk. Nobody among her colleagues in the Senate can match her fluency in English. Is she a *tililing*? Anybody who is a genius acts and sometimes talks weird. Einstein, one of the world's greatest geniuses, was a weirdo to his colleagues. Remember, there's a thin line that separates a genius from, well, an abnormal person. Geniuses are abnormal people.

* * *

Reynaldo "Ding" Almario, president of the Federation of Residents' Association (Fora), calls on all its members to vote on May 14, Monday.

Fora is an umbrella organization of all villages associations in Metro Manila. Its members include Ayala Heights Village, Ayala Alabang Village, Bel-Air Village, Ecology Village, Greenhills Village, Greenhills East, Urdaneta Village, Xavierville Village and San Lorenzo Village.

Almario notes the low turnout of voters in most of these rich enclaves in the past elections.

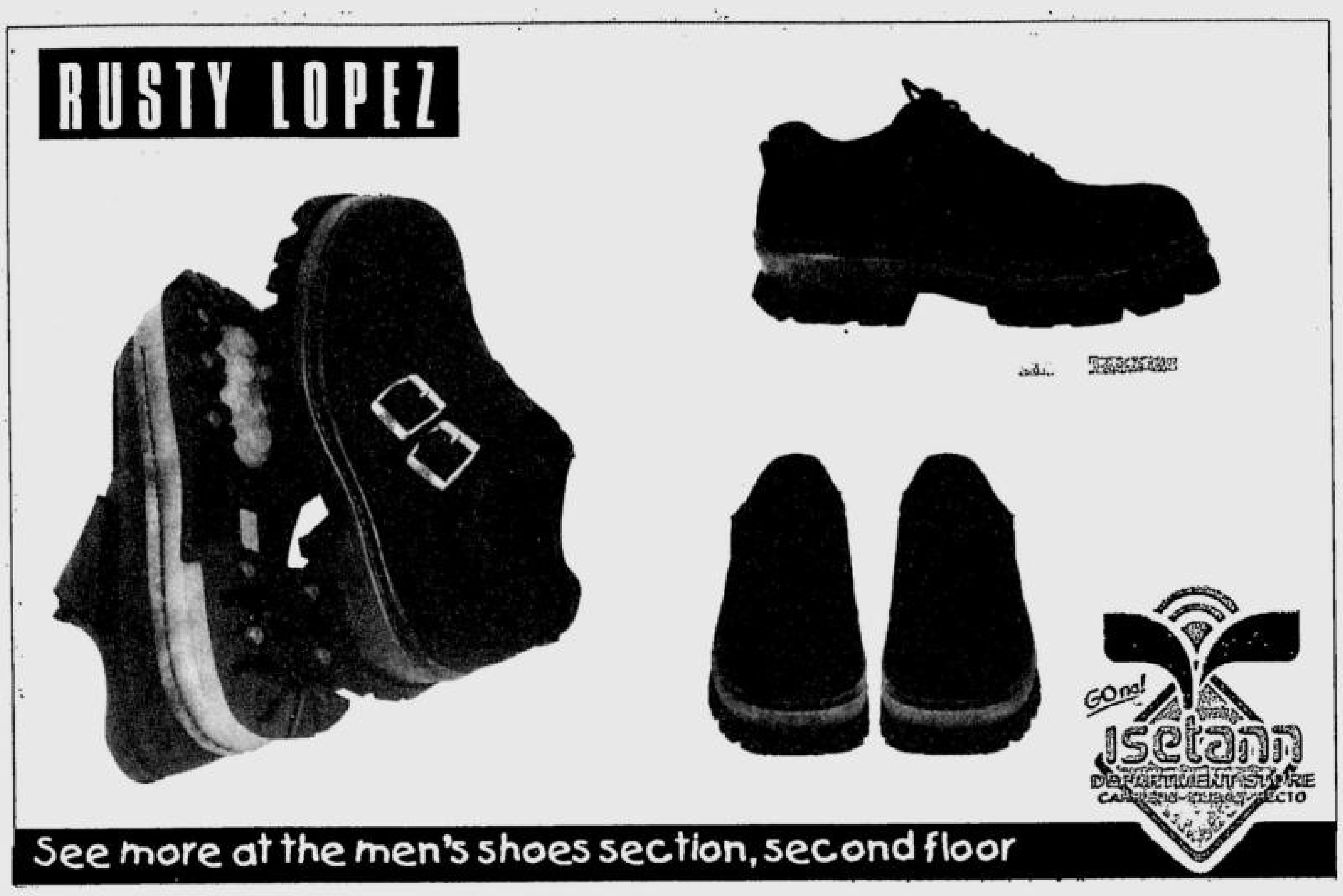
"Remember," he says, "the only thing necessary for the evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

* * *

In the second congressional district of Davao City, Rep. Nonoy Garcia's son Vincent is running as congressional candidate in his place. He is being challenged by Jerry Nograles, a former councilor and avid supporter of the homeowners in the district in asserting their right to affordable and decent houses.

Members of the media, the NGOs, and the Church are all urging the voters to choose only the qualified candidate. Vincent Garcia reportedly cannot decide on his own and defers to his father for all decisions. Congressman Garcia sometimes speaks for Vincent in important political meetings.

Jerry Nograles, a lawyer who graduated magna cum Laude from Ateneo de Davao, is pitted against Vincent Garcia, a non-lawyer.



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3. RAFFLE DRAWS

a. MONTHLY DRAW	PAYMENT PERIOD	PRIZES	NO. OF WINNERS DEPOSITOR	CASHIER
April 20, 2001	March 15 - April 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
May 25, 2001	April 15 - May 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
June 22, 2001	May 15 - June 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
July 20, 2001	June 15 - July 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
August 24, 2001	July 15 - August 15,2001	₱2,000	30	30
b. GRAND DRAW August 24, 2001	March 15 - August15, 2001	₱10,000	15	15
c. VENUE: Metrobank Head Office, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City Time: 3:00 pm				

4. Thirty (30) winning numbers will be drawn in the monthly raffle and fifteen (15) will be drawn in the Grand Draw.

5. Each winning number will have a corresponding winning cashier who will win the same prize as the depositor's.

6. Cash prizes will be credited to the depositor's account; winning cashiers will be issued manager's checks.

7. A participant can win only once in each draw.

8. Winning and non-winning raffle numbers are disqualified for the succeeding monthly draws but will be included in the Grand Draw.

9. Winning depositors can join again in the succeeding monthly draws (including the Grand Draw).

10. Winners will be notified via registered mail.

11. The winning cashier must present the notice and any valid ID within 60 days from the receipt of the registered notice. The prize can be claimed at:

Metrobank Product Management Dept. 11th Floor, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City (for Metro Manila winners) or at the Metrobank branch specified in the registered notice (for provincial winners).

12. Promo period: March 15 - August 15, 2001.

13. Employees of Metrobank, its advertising agency, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join the promo.

14. The decision of the promo organizers, in concurrence with the DTI, is final.

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EDGAR ERICE

'I shed blood, sweat and tears for Caloocan'

COUNCILOR Edgar "Egay" Erice is very clear about one of the first things he will do if elected Caloocan congressman. He will right a wrong that the national government has done to the city.

"The city's development has been stalled because a big problem has not been given a solution by previous Caloocan legislators," says Erice, who hopes to fill the seat that will be vacated by last-termer Rep. Baby Asistio.

Erice explains: Caloocan's population swelled but the infrastructure did not cope with the growing numbers "and there's no urban planning because traditional politicians ruled." Before Caloocan became a city, it was the biggest, most progressive town in the country and was "No. 1 in industry."

And then the Marcos government started turning the place into a resettlement area, borrowing millions of dollars from the World Bank and putting squatters from other parts of Metro Manila in Caloocan--in what became the resettlement projects in Dagat-Dagatan, Bagong Silang, Bagong Barrio and Camarin. The government used the millions to build infrastructure, housing and other facilities--but left the maintenance to the Caloocan government.

"Local leaders just kept on accepting the infrastructure, not expecting them to deteriorate after so many years," Erice says. "The projects are decaying, but we don't have the funds. Caloocan's original communities are deprived because a lot of the local government funds go to the projects which have so many people and therefore so many votes."

And so, Erice is specific about the first thing he will do if he is elected congressman. "Other politicians offer generalities. I'll be specific. In the first two years, this is what I intend to do: Come up with urban renewal legislation that will compensate local government units that host resettlement areas."

To become a congressman, he has to beat Caloocan's former mayor Macario "Boy" Asistio, still considered a formidable name in the city's politics. Baby Asistio, the outgoing congressman, is fighting Erice's ally, reelectionist Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo.

Although this is the first time Erice is running for congressman, he has been honed in executive and legislative work in the past 25 years, starting as a two-year chair of Caloocan's Kabataang Barangay and then as an administrative assistant at the former Metro Manila Commission.

Following his defeat in his first campaign to be a councilor in 1987, he became chief of staff of the incumbent Caloocan congressman. He ran again and lost again in 1992 and became instead a consultant of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

"So, among Caloocan politicians, I'm one of the youngest but I am the most veteran," says the 40-year-old candidate.

On his third attempt, he was finally elected councilor, and would be reelected for another term. "I am the only councilor who has never been absent from council sessions. I hold the record for submitting the highest number of ordinances that were approved by the council. In my last two years, 85 percent of the production of the council was authored by me."

Among the ordinances he authored are those creating the Caloocan City Science High School, and floating the P620-million Katipunan bonds.

Voter's Voice 2001 Eleksyon
INQUIRER GMA

Thanks to the Katipunan bonds, three projects are in the construction phase: the P220-million Caloocan City Medical Center (to replace the decaying Ospital ng Caloocan where, residents like to say, "you just lie there and you die there"); the P178-million poblacion market and commercial center on 10th Avenue; and a P220-million parking complex and commercial center in front of the City Hall. *LCC*

ERICE

NIKKI COSETENG

'I can defend my vote even on my death bed'

NIKKI Dominique Coseteng remembers her maternal and paternal grandmothers.

"My mother's mother went ballroom dancing almost every other night, till she died," Coseteng recalls. "She had joie d'vivre. She loved jewelry, clothes, she always had nice things."

And what did that teach her?

"If you want to buy things, it must come from your own money."

Though a product of a privileged environment, Coseteng, the granddaughter of the co-founder of Equitable Bank in Binondo, Manila, had also known austerity through another grandmother.

"My paternal grandmother cooked her own food," she says. "She ate boiled *kamote* and *lugaw*. She had a pillow that was only two inches high. Her bed had a mattress that was about one-and-a-half-inch high. All her life, from the time I was born till the time she died, she only had one pair of scissors. It never got lost."

And what did the frugal grandmother teach her?

"To be practical about things, not to waste things. Each according to his needs, each according to her ability."

Though she may seem like a delicate porcelain figurine, Coseteng's character more closely resembles granite.

"My philosophy has always been, if 100,000 people think I'm a crook, it doesn't make me one," she says. "Of course, in media that can make or break you.

"But I've always maintained that it's only the face in the mirror I see everyday that matters really most. And I try my best, to be able to look at that face straight in the eye each time."

During the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada at the Senate in January, Coseteng was one of 11 senators who voted not to open the second envelope. She says she did so because she thought "it was the only way I could vote."

"I can defend that vote today, 20 years from now, even on my death bed," she says. "I couldn't think of voting any other way that would stand the test of time."

And how did the hate mail affect her?

"It didn't even anger me," she says. "I felt amused to some extent, and I also felt sorry for the people who were sending them. People would curse you, insult you, wish you dead. Those people had gone out of their way to express so much anger, so much hatred."

Did she lose friends because of her vote? Did she care?

"No, the ones who never liked me, well, they don't like me still," she says. "The ones who were anti-Erap, while I was pro, I still talk to them.

"They never asked me why I had to vote that way, or told me 'I hate you.' It's just finished. And we're still friends, at least I think we are."

Coseteng believes she has all it takes to represent Quezon City's 3rd district in Congress.

"I work 21 hours a day, everyday. I don't know anybody who can match that yet."

She claims she knows her district like the back of her hand.

"I can tell you exactly where the potholes were," she says. "Now there are no more. But if there's a hole still out there, I didn't see it or nobody complained about it. But normally our holes don't last 48 hours, seriously." *Eric Olona*

COSETENG

OWE
OALITIO

Para sa Higit na Kapayapaan, Kaginhawahan, at Kaunlaran ng Cavite...

IHALAL MULI!
GOBERNADOR RAMON 'BONG' REVILLA, JR.
Matatag na Prinsipyo.

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Malacañan, Manila

Ika-7 ng Mayo 2001

Mga Mahal kong Kababayan sa Cavite,

Nabanggit ko na, at alam ng buong Pilipinas, na ang aking lola na si yumaong Escolastica Romero ay isang Kabitenya. Malaki ang hangarin ko na lalong maging maunlad ang Cavite. MAHAL KO ANG CAVITE.

Sa darating na halalan ay kailangan kong mahalal muli sina Gobernador Ramon 'Bong' Revilla, Jr., at ang lahat ng kandidato ng Lakas NUCD-UMDP at ang mga kandidatong Senador ng People Power Coalition.

Tutulungan ko si Gobernador Revilla na matupad ang hangarin niya na mapaunlad ang buong Cavite sa pamamagitan ng suporta sa tuwirang pagpapatupad ng Cavite Vision 2020, ang makabagong masterplan na magdudulot ng tunay at lubusang kaunlaran sa lalawigan at mga mamamayan. Sa pamamagitan ng pagpapatayo ng mga kinakailangang imprastruktura at pasilidad, kapwa namin sisiguruhin ni Gob. Revilla na makakamit nating lahat ang ating adhikain para sa Cavite, ang gawin itong pangunahing lalawigan sa buong Pilipinas. Tutugunan din natin ang mga pangunahing pangangailangan ng mga mamamayan hindi sa pamamagitan ng mga pangako, kundi sa mga konkretong plano at programa. Isa na dito ang pagbibigay lunas sa problema ng traffic, na matutugunan ng extension ng Coastal Road hanggang Noveleta at Cavite City, at LRT buhat sa Baclaran paikot sa Bacoor, Imus, Dasmariñas at Alabang. Gayundin, ang Upland towns ng Cavite ay gagawin nating Food Basket muli ng Metro Manila, upang matulungan ang mga magsasaka, at upang makamit natin muli ang Food Security.

Ang mga bagong Kabitenyo sa resettlement areas ng Bulihan sa Silang, General Mariano Alvarez, Dasmarinas-Bagong Bayan at sa mga pabahay ng Public Estates Authority sa General Trias at Naic, ay bibigyan namin ni Gobernador Revilla ng maausing pag-aaral upang ang mga nabanggit na lugar ay mapaunlad, at ang mga naninirahan dito ay mabuhay ng maginhawa at matahimik.

Sa kabila na si Gobernador Bong Revilla ay maraming nagawang kaunlaran sa Cavite, marami pa ang dapat magawa. Kailangan natin siya at ang kanyang mga kasama para maipagpatuloy ang kaunlaran sa Cavite. Magkakaroon ng mahusay na ugnayan ang Office of the Governor ng Cavite at ang Office of the President. Bibigyan ko siya ng lahat ng suporta na maaaring ibigay ng Malacañang...

HINDI KO SIYA PABABAYAAN.

Huwag sanang magkamali ang mga Kabitenyo na hindi ihalal sina Gobernador Ramon 'Bong' Revilla, Jr., ang kanyang mga kasama, at ang lahat ng mga kandidato sa Senado ng People Power Coalition.

MABUHAY ANG MGA KABITENYO!!!

Nagmamahal sa inyo,
GMA
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
Pangulo ng Pilipinas

PAID FOR BY PEACE & PROGRESS FOR CAVITE MOVEMENT

PAOCTF members gave grenades, says 'Gang'

(From page A25)

in an alleged plan to conduct terrorist activities in Metro Manila to stop Monday's election.

The suspects were identified as Marlon Panindig, 23, a native of Maguindanao and residing at Globo de Oro, Quiapo, Manila; Wahid Mangodal alias Patrick; Tong Sabdila alias "Buniks," 28, a native of North Cotabato and residing at Tandang Sora, Quezon City; Aratuc Colintang; and Junidel Andatal.

During interrogation, Panindig had confessed that his group was responsible for the recent P1.5 million robbery and grenade blast at a jewelry shop in Farmers Plaza in Cubao, according to authorities.

Panindig has reportedly offered himself as state witness against his group.

He told authorities his group is composed of nine people armed with two .45 pistols, a .9mm pistol and a grenade, which they lobed after the robbery to avoid arrest.

Panindig also said that they were responsible for the series of robberies of jewelry shops in Grand Central in Caloocan on April 29, Baclaran LRT station in August 1999, and Tutuban Mall last Dec. 9.

Several pieces of jewelry, pawnshop tickets, various documents, handguns and grenades were found on the suspects following their arrest by a joint team of agents from the CIDG, Intelligence Group and National Bureau of Investigation in separate raids of the gang's safe house in Metro Manila.

Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, IG chief, said his men are still conducting follow-up operations for the arrest of 20 other members of the gang.

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COUNTRY WAFFLES ANNAPOLIS

Ombudsman . . .

(From page A25)

to mention any circumstances which would amount to the commission of the crime of plunder."

In Manila, Atienza and another city official were charged on Thursday with plunder and graft for allegedly overpricing the bottled water supply at the Manila City Hall.

The complainants also claimed Atienza authorized the city government to enter into a contract with Water Shop without a public bidding.

Abalos Sr. and his son are also facing plunder charges for allegedly using the Mandaluyong mayor's office to steal P719 million from the city over the past 15 years.

Complainant Serafin Neria said this wealth was ill-gotten since the legitimate incomes of respondents from 1986 to 2001 would be P4.3 million for Abalos Sr., and P1.9 million for Benhur.

But Benhur claimed Neria was only being used by his rival, former city vice mayor and second-time mayoral aspirant Ernesto "Bibot" Domingo.

Desierto is still waiting for the evidence Makati Vice Mayor Edu Manzano and Councilors Dean Barbers and Mark Joseph will submit to back up their charge that Makati Mayor Elenita Binay and former Mayor Jejomar Binay stole about P1 billion from city coffers for the past 15 years.

Binay yesterday filed a libel charge against Joseph before a Makati court. With reports from Pamela Santos and Nickson Ryan Matias

Manila police ...

(From page A25)

Barrio Magsaysay in Tondo, Kahilum 1 and 2 in Pandacan, San Andres Bukid, and the Islamic Center in Quiapo and San Miguel.

He said that these areas are densely populated and should be secured and monitored for election-related incidents and other crimes.

In a May 7 report to the National Capital Regional Police Office, Pasinos said Kahilum 1 and 2 is a notorious haven for drug pushers and users. Magsaysay is believed to be infiltrated by the local communist movement, he added.

From the 1,910 additional policemen, 1,028 are assigned to secure voting centers, but they will remain outside the polling precincts; 252 will provide security in escorting ballot boxes to and from the precincts to the main canvassing venue at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Malate; and 630 will be for "normal police visibility patrol."

Aniceta Laceda, election officer in charge of the canvassing, said that about 50 Marines would guard the stadium.

Pasinos also said that 632 policemen are on reserve status, and 382 of them would come from the district.

Also part of the reserve force are 202 members of the Philippine National Police's Special Action Force and 48 policemen who served at the United Nations Transitional Authority in East Timor.

The WPD has also activated its District Election Monitoring and Action Center, which will be composed of Supt. Coo Yee Co, as chair, and 9 police officers and 4 non-officers as members.

The WPD-Demac will monitor election-related incidents, establish the parameters from the "areas of concern," and disseminate guidelines and resolutions coming from the Comelec, among other duties.

MELON SILVERIO

‘I would like to give back the abundance I’m enjoying’

SILVERIO (second from left) candidacy is endorsed by (from left) Bayan Muna party-list nominee Ka Satur Ocampo, Gabriela's Liza Maza and Crispin Beltran.

IN A way, Ninoy Aquino's death was a new beginning for Melon Silverio, who took to the streets in protest of the Marcos dictatorship after Aquino's assassination.

"I experienced a transformation and realized that I was lucky and would like to give back the abundance that I am enjoying," says Silverio. "I became spiritual and took my life seriously."

Silverio takes her transformation further and brings it into the realm of Makati City's politics as a congressional aspirant for the first district.

She says that she also brings with her hope for Makati's poor, which comprise 80 percent of the city's population.

Although she belongs to the rarified atmosphere of Makati's exclusive villages, Silverio has had more than nodding acquaintance with the city's poor. For the past 11 years, she and her husband Abet had devoted most of their lives to reaching out to the poor communities of Makati through their Church ministry.

"I remember the first time I went to them," Silverio recalls. "It was a culture shock for me. I went there (a depressed area) in an all-white dress, white stockings and white shoes. But it was flooded. It was a baptism for me into a different life, a life I am not accustomed to."

After countless health missions, literacy projects and feeding programs, she is now familiar with the world of the underprivileged and wants more than ever to change their lives. She also understands them better.

But what she says she could not understand is why so much deprivation exists in a city that has an income of about P4.5 billion a year.

"You would think that after 15 years of the current administration, the problems of Makati would have been solved a little at a time. But I saw something terribly wrong here. Housing, for example. If at this stage you still see people living along the railroad tracks, there's definitely something very wrong here."

She hopes to change that through a genuine housing program that would give decent dwelling to the poor. She also vows to provide free medical attention and medicine to those who cannot afford basic health services. But above all, she says she would bridge the gap between the rich and the poor through education by building a city college in the first district.

"I would like to be close to my constituents so if the time comes, I would ask the mayor if I could put up an office in city hall," she says. "That has never been done, but I would like people to know that if they go to city hall to see their mayor, they would also see their congressman there." *Nini Valera*

‘Assassination try’ vs Carlos foiled

By Christian Esguerra and Louie Jon A. Sanchez

POLICE foiled a supposed assassination attempt against Valenzuela City Mayor Emmanuel Carlos yesterday morning.

Tension gripped a motorcade in Purok 4 in Barangay Mapulang Lupa when an unidentified man was caught pointing a gun at Carlos at about 9 a.m., police said.

Carlos, who is seeking a third and last term, was on a float when his bodyguards spotted a man pointing a .9 mm pistol at him from about 15 meters away, police said.

The motorcade came to a halt when a bodyguard pushed Carlos to the floor of the float and covered him with his own body.

Several bodyguards ran after the gunman who, however, was able to escape in a congested area in Mapulang Lupa, Carlos told a news conference after the incident.

The man remains at large as of yesterday evening.

Police said the suspect was between 28 and 30, had short hair and was wearing a black vest.

A member of the People Power Coalition, Carlos is running against his vice mayor, Boy de Guzman of the Nationalist People's Coalition, and Eliseo Demafelis.

Curiously, Demafelis is also the mayoral candidate of the PPC.

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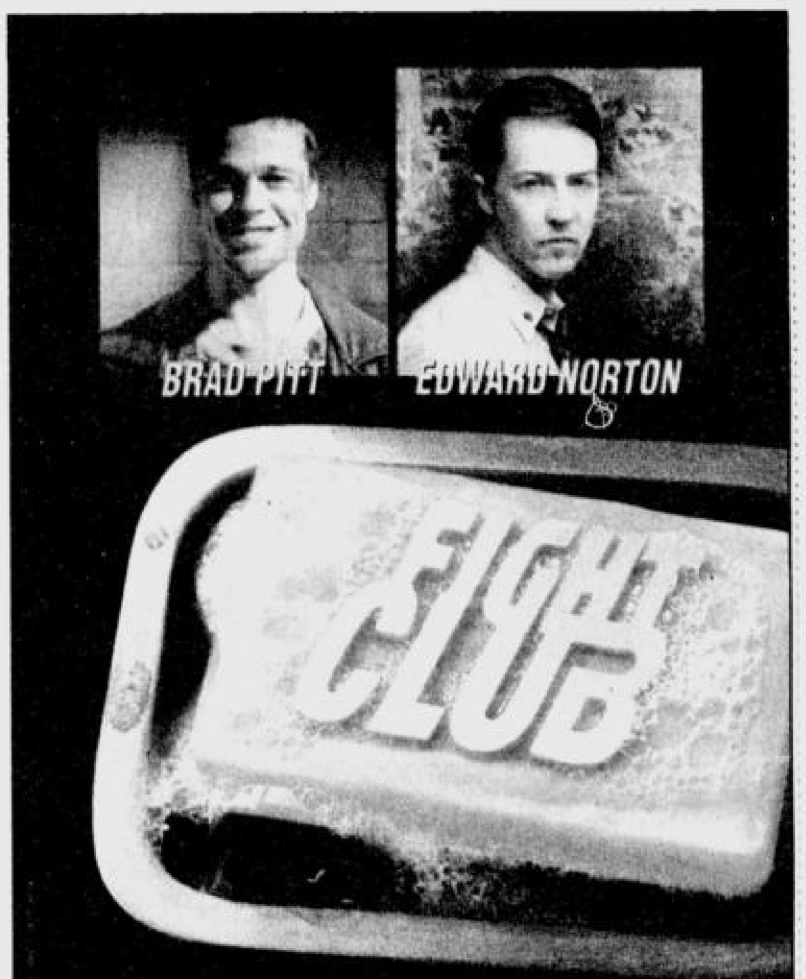

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NESTOR MERCADO

'I'm proud of my role in Fort Bonifacio's change'

MERCADO

AFTER Nestor S. Mercado failed to win the race for vice mayor in the 1998 elections, as the running mate of Elenita S. Binay who became the mayor, he thought it was the end of his political life.

"But people still kept coming to me for help," he says. "I didn't want to give money, so Chairman Binay (former Makati mayor, who was then chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority) and I thought of setting up a foundation."

What they set up is the Kasanib Foundation Inc. which he says has 75,000 Makati residents as members who can avail themselves of its free legal aid, medical assistance, burial assistance of up to P15,000, livelihood and cooperative training, educational and social programs.

Kasanib now has two drugstores in the city where foundation members can buy medicines at 25 percent discount, six Kasanib rolling centers that sell basic goods "at really low prices," and computer training for the youth.

Mercado is again vying for the vice mayor's post in Monday's elections, this time as the running mate of former mayor and former MMDA chair Jejomar Binay, husband of the outgoing mayor, under the PDP-Laban banner. Between now and his previous election campaign, Mercado remained busy, serving "for free" as Mayor Elenita Binay's consultant and working for the transformation of Fort Bonifacio and distributing its lots to about 15,000 people who have been living on them in the area's seven barangays.

"I always say we should talk about politics only during campaign periods," says Mercado, 48. "Let's talk about what will happen in the next three years."

Garbage. "I'm in favor of giving it directly to the local government. We can look for our own dumpsite. We in Makati can do our own collection and disposal because we have enough funds and the technology.

"I can say that 60 to 70 percent of Makati residents have been practising segregation. When Jojo Binay was MMDA chair, the problem was politics. According to the court case that we won, the San Mateo landfill should have been closed in 2002. But because of politics, it was shut down in December 2000.

Traffic. "This is one of Makati's biggest problems because of the difference between the actual population and the daytime population. At night, the population is only about 500,000, but during the day it's three or four times that figure. We have to find a new technology to solve this. Those who came before us did not start to widen the roads. One solution is to enforce the traffic rules. When parking is not allowed, there should be strictly no parking."

Drugs. "I admit it's a serious problem in Makati. Makati is really trying to fight it but the problem is really big. It's a main problem of all the towns and cities all over the country.

"The vice mayor is supposed to head the local anti-drug abuse council. If I get lucky, I'll take that on and fight drugs. We don't know that some of our own children would soon be among the drug users."

Education. "We'll intensify the campaign for education. Makati now ranks third nationwide in terms of public school education. We look forward to being No. 1."

Fort Bonifacio. "I'm proud of my role in the post-'86 Binay administration, of distributing lots in Fort Bonifacio to the people who actually lived there. As a councilor, I was one of the big keys to the distribution of lots and the building of facilities there. I'm proud of my role there.

"After that, Fort Bonifacio people began to have concrete roads, a nice school, a nice barangay hall, a health center."

"After the elections," says Mercado, a geodetic engineer by profession, "no matter what different parties the winners belong to, we should all start working."

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8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
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4	DOLBY DIGITAL	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MNUTES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
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12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
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6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
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10	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
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6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
9	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
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2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
7	DTS	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
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3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
6	ULTRA SURROUND	DIVINO
7	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
9	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
TUTUBAN CENTER		2514302
1	ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
SM CEBU		2313876
1	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ATTACK FORCE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
SM ILOILO		3209422
1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
SM PAMPANGA		7128015
1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SUGAR & SPICE
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SUGAR & SPICE
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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5 LUCKY NUMBERS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 SOMEONE LIKE YOU in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 SUGAR AND SPICE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1 NARINIG... L8TEST in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 SOMEONE LIKE YOU in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 15 MINUTES in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 Onstage

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1 SOMEONE LIKE YOU THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 FINDING FORRESTER in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 15 MINUTES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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3 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
4 GOLD (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	15 MINUTES
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	FINDING FORRESTER
8 [illegible]	BALIKTARAN
9 [illegible]	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10 [illegible]	SUGAR & SPICE

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
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1	RESERVE
2	SWEET NPVEMBER
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
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5	WOMAN ON TOP
6 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	SWEET NOVEMBER
2 (DTS)	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
3	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BALIKTARAN
2	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
3	MAY ISANG PUSO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	BALIKTARAN
3	15 MINUTES
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	EXIT WOUNDS
5	DIVINO ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	BALIKTARAN
2	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
3	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	RESERVE
6	EXIT WOUNDS
7	15 MINUTES
8	MORTAL ENEMY

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
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1	SOMEONE LIKE YOU

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	THE MEXICAN
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
2	BODY TO BODY
3	SA PILING NG IBA

Spring
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1	BALIKTARAN
A	DIVINO ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BALIKTARAN
2	BLAIRWITCH
3	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
4	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BALIKTARAN
5	MAY ISANG PUSO
6	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8 (SDDS)	LUCKY NUMBER
9 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BALIKTARAN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	BALIKTARAN
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4 (SDDS)	MAY ISANG PUSO
5	15 MINUTES
6 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
7 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	MAY ISANG PUSO
5 (SDDS)	RESERVE
6	15 MINUTES
7 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	15 MINUTES
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	MAY ISANG PUSO
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MAY ISANG PUSO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	MAY ISANG PUSO

Dilson
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1	MAY ISANG PUSU
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	RESERVE
4	BALIKTARAN

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	DIVINO ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	DIVINO ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
3	SA PILING NG IBA
4	15 MINUTES
5	BALIKTARAN

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	MAY ISANG PUSO
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	BALIKTARAN
4	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
5	EXIT WOUNDS
6	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
2	MAY ISANG PUSO
3	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	MADERASO
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SAY IT ISN'T SO
2 (DTS)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	BALIKTARAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	15 MINUTES
2	BALIKTARAN
3	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
4 (DTS)	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
2	MADERASO
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	EXTREME WARRIORS
5	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BALIKTARAN
2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	THE CROW

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BALIKTARAN
2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	THE CROW

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	AIR BUD
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511 9736

1	THE CROW
2	BALIKTARAN
3	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BALIKTARAN
2 (DTS)	MADERASO

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BALIKTARAN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	BALIKTARAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	THE MEXICAN
3	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Berma
tel 879 2168

1	EXIT WOUNDS
2	DIVINO ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVE
2	BALIKTARAN
3	RESERVE
4	EXIT WOUNDS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

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2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	BALIKTARAN
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Cop jailed for shooting

A MALABON Regional Trial Court yesterday sentenced a police officer to 10 years in prison for shooting a suspected drug pusher during a buy-bust operation nine years ago.

Six other policemen involved in the operation were acquitted.

Judge Felisberto Gonzalez found SPO3 Jesus Erepol, 46, of Diliman, Quezon City, guilty of attempting to kill Rolando Santos, 43, in the house of the complainant's brother in Barangay Tañong, Malabon.

Gonzalez ordered Erepol to pay the complainant P55,000 in damages.

Members of the Philippine National Police Regional Police Intelligence Unit based in Camp Karingal, Quezon City tried to arrest Santos for allegedly selling illegal drugs and smuggled firearms in a house on Manapat Street, Tañong on June 30, 1982, court records say.

The team was composed of PO3 Nicanor Bitong, SPO1 Rodrigo Aguilar, SPO2 Antonio Ermino, SPO1 Efren Marcelo, SPO2 Ricardo Ruiz, PO2 Pacquito Alvarez, and Erepol.

Erepol claimed Santos shot him twice with a 38-caliber revolver. He said he retaliated by shooting Santos in the chest and abdomen.

Santos said Erepol deliberately shot him.

The court ruled that the supposed buy-bust operation was more of a "manhunt." *Paul Ernest Lazaro, Christian Esguerra*

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DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MAY ISANG PUSO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALIKTARAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	15 MINUTES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LUCKY NUMBERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	NARINIGMONABAANGLATEST
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	15 MINUTES
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
MIRAMAR	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS / OBJECT OF OBSESION
ODEON	15 MINUTES
ODEON-2	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
ROBEN	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	MS. CONGENIALITY / DEMON GATE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	15 MINUTES
QUEZON-1	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR-2	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG [illegible]
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	RECESS
CINEMA-2	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-3	HALIK NG SIRENA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	EXTREME WARRIORS
CINEMA-6	ABAKADA...INA
CINEMA-7	INIT NG DUGO
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-12	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-14	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-15	NAPINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-2	15 MINUTES
CINEMA-3	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-4	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-5	LUCKY NUMBERS
CINEMA-6	SOMEONE LIKE YOU

'Boycott' letters seized

VALENZUELA authorities on Thursday confiscated hundreds of letters with black ribbons warning voters of an "impending" violence on election day.

The letters, which were found in the city's post office, carried the statement that said, "*Iboykot ang eleksyon. Huwag ka nang bumoto sampu ng pamilya mo... May mangyayari sa presinto ninyo* (Boycott the elections. Don't vote. . . Something will happen in your polling precinct)."

The letters were supposedly signed by Liwayway Luwalhati of the Alex Boncayao Brigade.

The threat forced reelectionist Mayor Emmanuel Carlos to cancel several appointments.

The letters were placed in small white envelopes postmarked May 9 and 10. They were about to be delivered when they caught the attention of a post office employee.

The employee said the letters did not pass through regular delivery procedures.

Dolores Aquino, 39, a resident of Barangay Karuhatan, said she received a copy of the letter Thursday morning. Joji Mendoza, 35, and Buenafe Catada, 48, of the same barangay, also received copies, Carlos said. ***Christian Esguerra, Louie Jon Sanchez***

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MINA GABOR

'I always work hard'

PASAY City congressional candidate Mina Gabor would bring into office 18 years of public service and invaluable experience from various positions she held in trade and tourism.

Although she has lived all her life in Pasay, Gabor admits that she did not see it while she worked in government. What she saw of Pasay City when she returned to private sector were the seedy realities of life, the deprivation of the people, the need for change.

Running for the lone congressional seat of the city is her way of giving back to Pasay the attention it sorely needs from someone who truly cares.

"I've worked very hard in every area where I've been," says Gabor. "When I went back to private sector and saw Pasay again, I felt that I could still do something about the city. As you get older, your energy goes down. Now that I still have the energy, I thought I could still do something for the city."

She sums up her campaign theme in an acronym—LIFE.

"L is for livelihood," she explains. "Everywhere I went, unemployment was averaging five out of 10 people. In some areas, seven out of 10 would have no livelihood.

"I is for information technology, which I would introduce to the city. F is for family as the central core of one's life, and E is environment, which has to be cared for if we were to give Pasay a new lease on life."

Ironically, Pasay is the first city a tourist would see when he lands on Philippine soil.

"We are the entry point. The biggest mall in Asia would be located here. Its infrastructure is perfect. The Senate, the World Trade Center are here. But you don't think of those things when you think of Pasay. So something is very wrong here."

Even if it's a tough job to do right by Pasay, Gabor is the type to take the challenge in her typical hands on style.

"I'm not the type to just stand here and not do anything about it. I see myself working closely with the local government and NGOs. That's the only way that I would know what is needed by my constituents."

She would also be bringing what she calls her strengths to office, her ability to deal with problems and offer practical solutions to them in consultation with the people she would serve.

GABOR

Still, she will not compromise on the issues of divorce, abortion, and family. After all, life is the essence of her vision and a firm grip on moral issues would make it a rich one.

Nini Valera

EMIGDIO TANJUATCO JR.

'I stand by my performance in legislation'

THE FIRST time Emigdio S. Tanjuatco Jr. ran for public office as Member of Parliament in 1984 to represent the second district of Rizal province, he was the most surprised when he won. He ran against an entrenched incumbent. He also thought not one could spell his name.

In the next 11 years, Tanjuatco represented Rizal and introduced several landmark bills, most of which were passed into law. He also brought into the 20th century the little known town of Jala-Jala which, during his campaign in 1984, he found to be caught in a time warp.

"It was like (the people) lived in the 19th century. It had a 14-kilometer road connecting it to the municipality of Pililia. But it was always in a state of disrepair. I realized that the problem was access. At that time, I also did not have access to funds because I was an oppositionist."

But when his cousin Corazon Aquino became President, Tanjuatco finally had access to government funds and used some of the funds to complete the road that would link Jala-Jala to civilization. Although it took him several more years to finish the roadwork, Jala-Jala became a model agrarian reform town at the end of his three terms in Congress. It has also remained one of his proudest achievements as a public servant.

"I have been representing the second district of Rizal for 11 years," explains Tanjuatco, who is running for congressman of the same district. "In terms of legislation, I was giving the constituents what they needed. I take my legislative functions very seriously and I stand by my performance in legislation."

TANJUATCO

His being a lawyer, Tanjuatco says, gave him an edge as a legislator. The adversarial training in law is an advantage, he says, when he comes to the floor and fights for the interests of his constituents.

That he became a lawyer, he says, was the most important decision he has made in his life. That he took up law at the Ateneo had given him the Jesuit perspective that gave his career added value.

"My being a lawyer has placed me in a position where I have a wider perspective of things and a better position to be of help. Subconsciously, that has always been in my mind."

He vows to pursue the enhancement of education and livelihood for his constituents "because everything would stem from there."

He also hopes to speed up progress in Rizal through the construction of an expressway that would link the province to the other parts of Metro Manila.

"We've always talked about public trust, but we must not stop there. We cannot solve the present problems with solutions of yesterday. We have to be innovative and creative. But I believe that when we approach a problem, we have to take into account the needs of everybody in the sector. The criteria are if it's good, will it enhance the moral fiber and benefit the people?"

Nini Valera

METRO CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Planas shows difference

IT'S all about implementation, according to Mike Planas, congressional candidate in the 3rd district of Quezon City.

"Most, if not all, politicians have similar platforms — health, education, environment, and free legal assistance," Planas said in a recent candidates' forum. "The difference lies in the implementation."

His opponents, Sen. Nikki Coseteng and Maite Defensor, revealed their plans for the district. Planas articulated his past accomplishments as city councilor.

He said he intends to continue doing them on a larger scale if he is elected congressman.

As part of his health program, Planas has given out more than 25,000 pairs of reading glasses, sponsored more than 150 patients for cataract removal, and distributed wheelchairs and artificial legs.

He has 40 full scholars who graduated from the PSBA. He also authored an ordinance regulating the use of plastic bags, which was adopted by Sen. Juan Flavier and was included in the Clean Air Act.

PARAÑAQUE congressional candidate Ed Zialcita got support from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Fidel Ramos during a recent Lakas-NCR rally.

Slain security guard found by judge in QC

THE BODY of a security guard who had been shot dead was found by a judge in a Quezon City subdivision before dawn yesterday.

The guard, Ramil D. Napa, 30, of Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, was shot in the head, said investigator SPO1 Demosthenes Rebancos of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit. The body was found by Judge Victor Cabanos, of Villa Orion, West Fairview.

Rebancos did not say in his report to which court Cabanos is assigned.

The judge told investigators he found the victim lying on his back in the guardhouse at the corner of Centauros and Omega streets in West Fairview, according to Rebancos.

Philip C. Tubeza

Manila needs Bagatsing, says President Macapagal

ONLY Amado Bagatsing can effectively carry out the government's pro-poor programs in Manila, according to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The President made the pitch for Bagatsing, the People Power Coalition candidate for Manila mayor, during ceremonies on Wednesday marking the awarding of a 2,000-hectare lot in Pandacan to residents.

The President, who has been traveling all over the country calling for a 13-0 sweep by the coalition's senatorial candidates, said victory for the administration's local candidates is also important in pushing forward her poverty alleviation programs.

She said poverty-alleviation programs should succeed in Manila because the city is a showcase of the rest of the country.

Ms Arroyo signed an executive order declaring the lot, owned by the Philippine National Railways, as site for socialized housing for the bona fide residents of the area.

Herrera back in QC

FORMER Quezon City councilor Alice Herrera is making a comeback in the city's political arena, seeking to regain her old post and hoping to continue her programs for the marginalized sectors of the second district.

Herrera, tagged as the city's "graft buster councilor," exposed and investigated ghost employees at the Quezon City Hall while she was chair of the council's blue ribbon committee.

Herrera bats for women empowerment and the introduction of more livelihood programs in the community, starting at the barangay level.

She also vowed to work for the implementation of the Women in Nation Building Act where 5 percent of the national government budget will automatically be allocated for women's projects.

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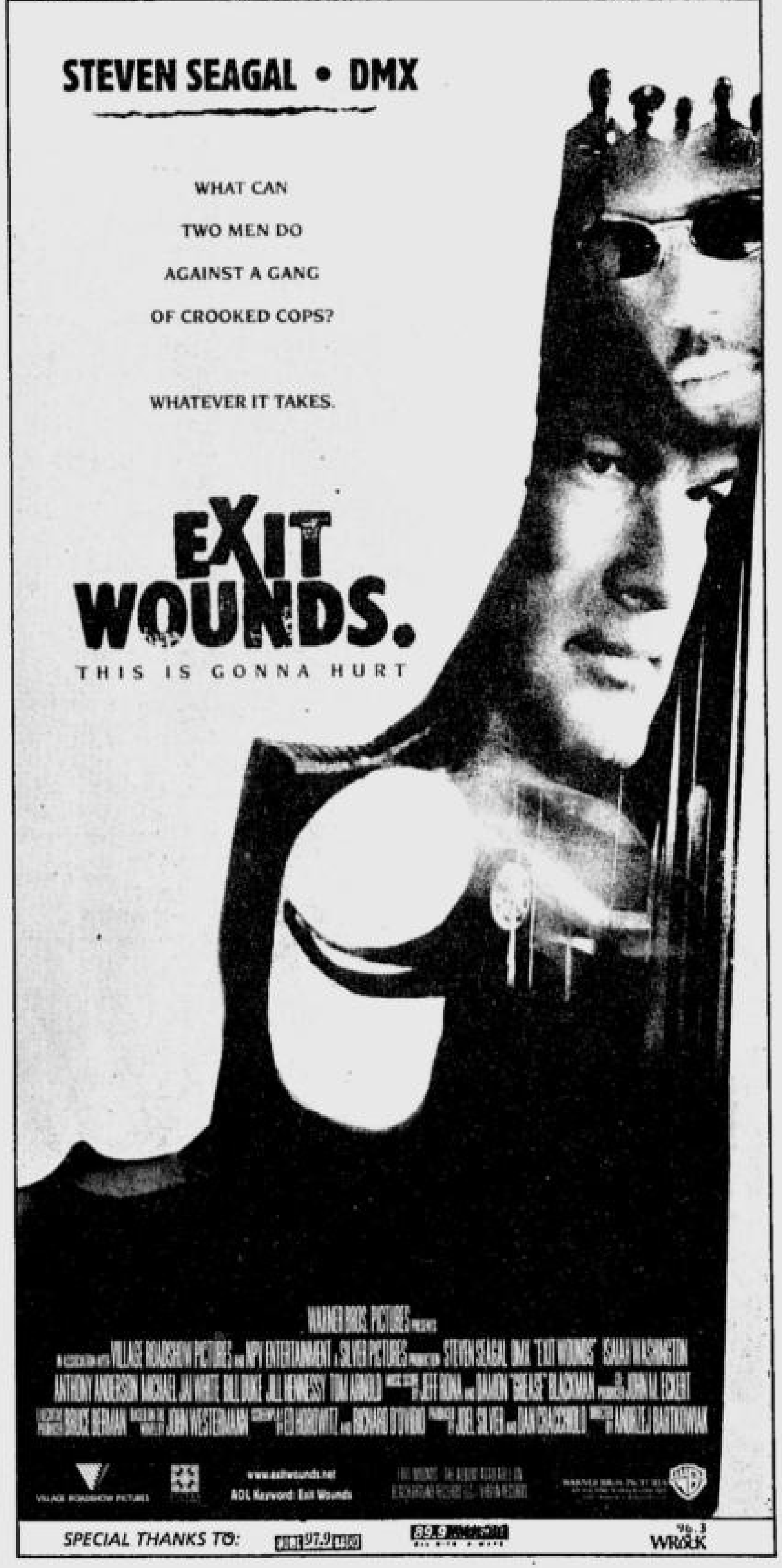

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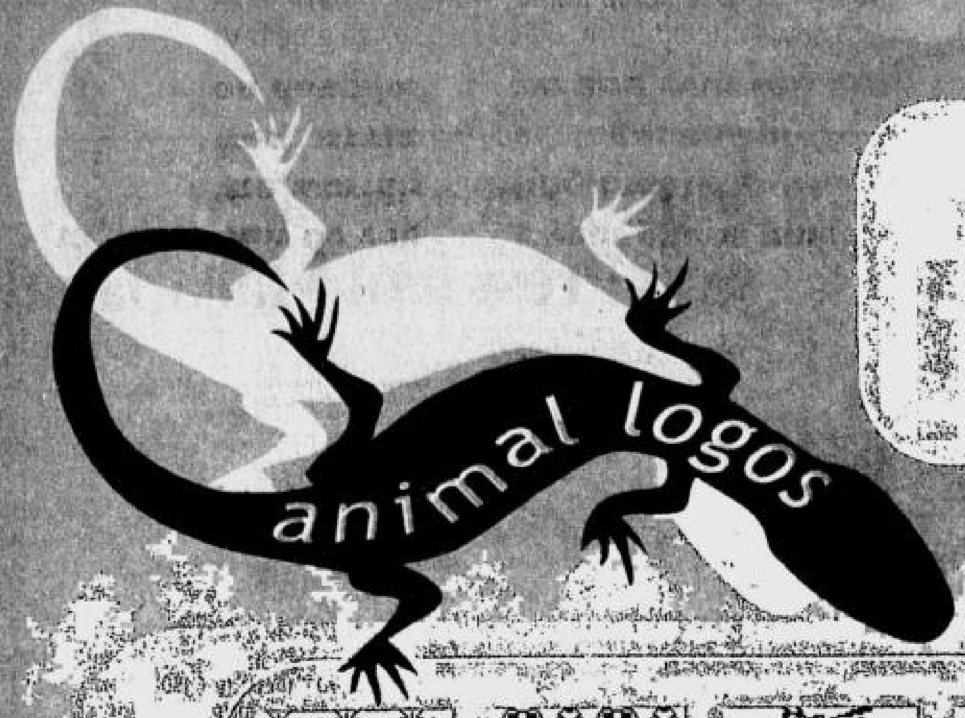
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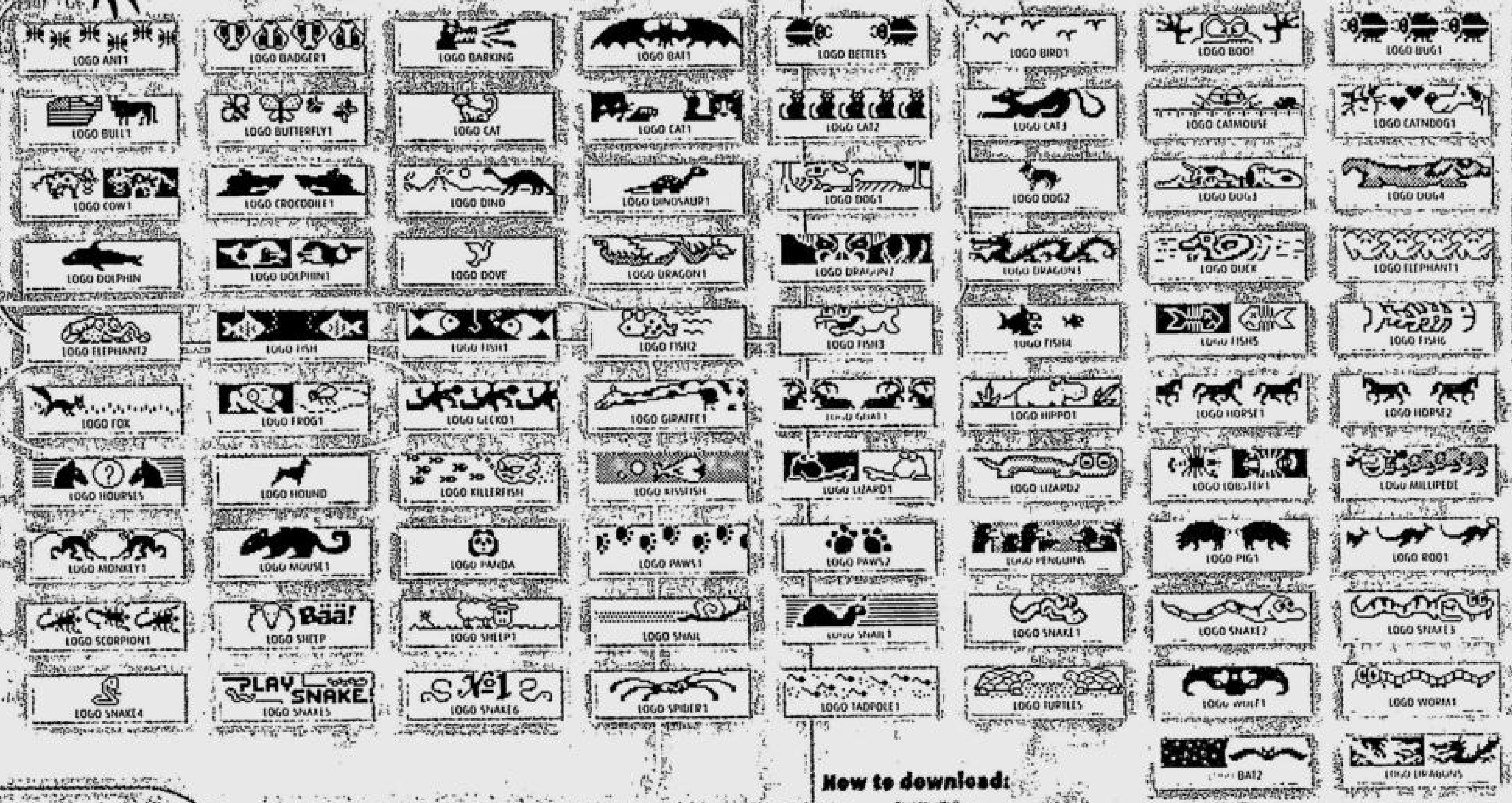
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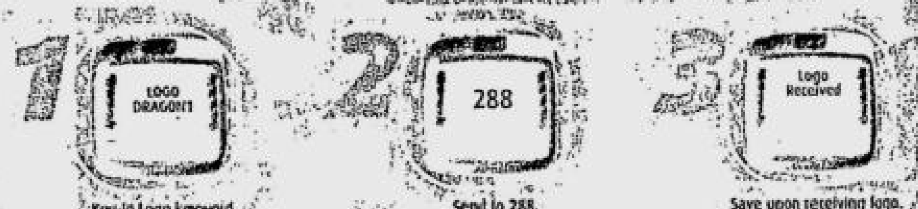
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Again	Janet Jackson	TONE AGAIN
All The Small Things	Blink 182	TONE SMALTING
Always Something There	Naked Eyes	TONE SUMTINDER
Am I The Same Girl	Swingout Sisters/Eugene Recor/William Sander	TONE SAMEGIRL
Breakfast At Tiffany's	Deep Blue Something/Todd Pipes	TONE TIFFANYS
Breakout	Swingout Sisters	TONE BRKOUT
Closing Time	Semisonic	TONE CLOSTIME
Dreaming Of You	Selena	TONE DRIMOFU
Every Little Thing She Does	Sting	TONE LITLTHNG
Genie In A Bottle	Cristina Aguilera	TONE GENIE
I Knew I Love You	Savage Garden/Darren Hayes/Daniel Jones	TONE IKNWLUVU
I Love You Always Forever	Donna Lewis	TONE LUVULWYS
I Try	Macy Gray	TONE ITRY
Kiss From A Rose	Seal	TONE KISFROSE
Kiss Me	Six Pence None The Richer/Mathew Slocum	TONE KISSME
Lambada	Reginaldo Francisco	TONE LAMBADA
Love Is All Around	Wet Wet Wet	TONE FOURWED
Love Is All That Matters	Diane Warren	TONE LUVMATR
Love Me For A Reason	Boyzone	TONE LUV4RISN
Open Your Heart	Madonna	TONE OPENUR
Pretty Fly	Offspring	TONE PRETIFLY
Save A Prayer	Duran Duran	TONE SAVPRYR
Scar Tissue	Red Hot Chilli Peppers	TONE SCARTIS
Shout	Tears For Fears	TONE SHOUT
Somebody	Martin Gore/Alan Wilder	TONE SUMBODY
Suburbia	Pet Shop Boys	TONE SUBURB
Sweet Child Of Mine	Guns N' Roses	TONE SWEETCHI
Take On Me	Aha	TONE TAKEONME
Too Close	Next	TONE 2CLOSE
Truly Madly Deeply	Savage Garden/Darren Hayes/Daniel Jones	TONE TRULYMAD
Unbelievable	EMF-DENCH/Aatkin/Foley/Decleot/Brownson	TONE UNBELIV
Wake Me Up Before You Go Go	Wham	TONE WAKEMEUP
What A Girl Wants	Cristina Aguilera	TONE WHATAGIRL
You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling	Hall & Oates	TONE LOSTLOVN

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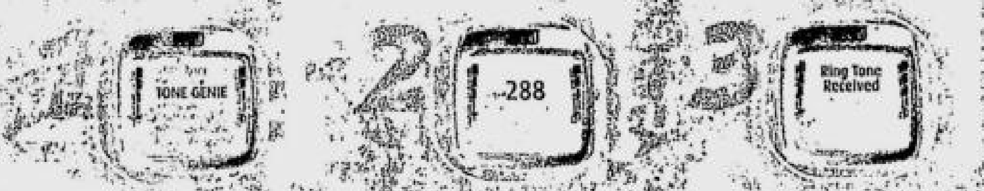
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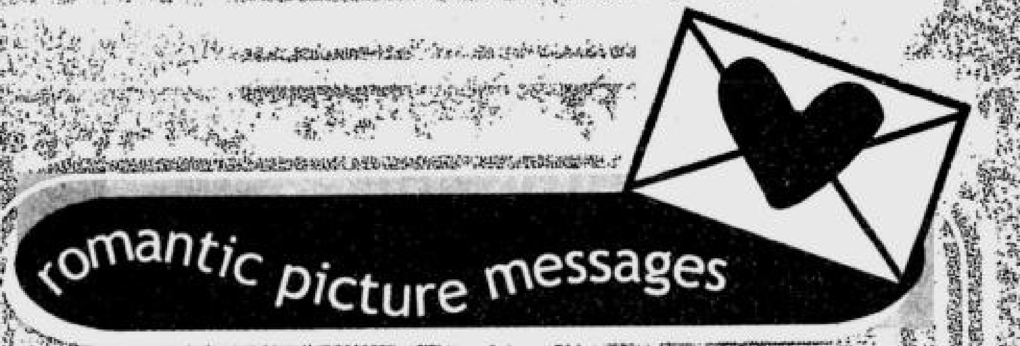
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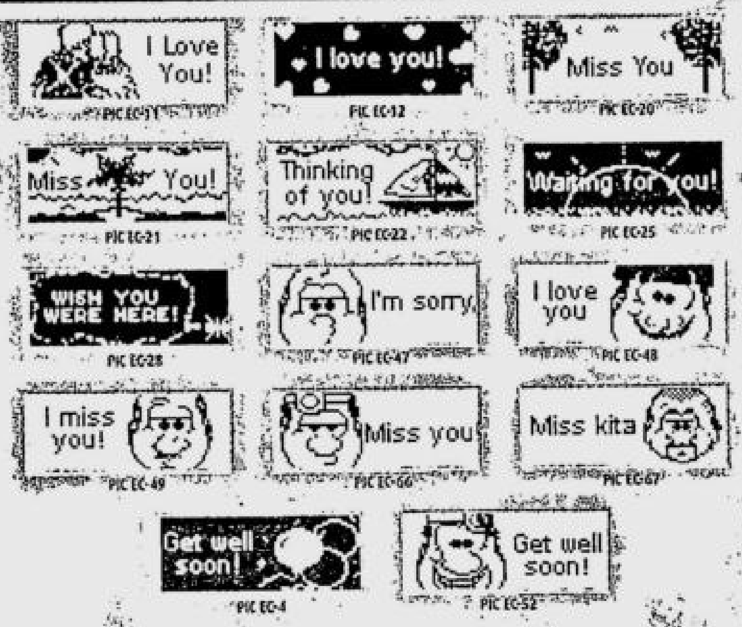
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Thinking of you!
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Waiting for you!
PIC EC-25
WISH YOU WERE HERE!
PIC EC-28
I'm sorry
PIC EC-47
I love you
PIC EC-48
I miss you!
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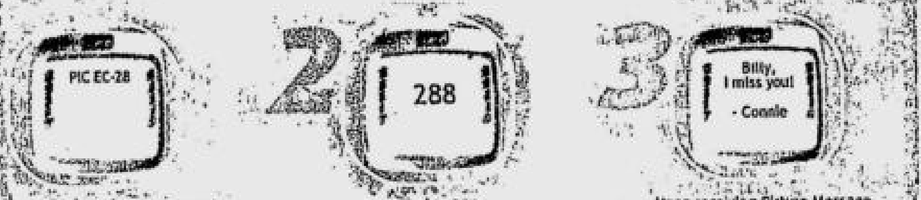
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2
288
3
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- Connie

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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

No deal with Danding, says PCGG

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO AND BLANCHE S. RIVERA

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday said it would pursue cases to wrestle control of San Miguel Corp. and other coconut levy-funded corporations, including the United Coconut Planters Bank, from businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza said the government has no plan of entering into a compromise agreement with Cojuangco over the disputed 27-percent stake in SMC, contrary to the claim of Social Security System president and SMC board member Vitaliano Nañagas II.

"Persistent reports of a compromise being explored with Mr. Cojuangco will not undermine the PCGG's efforts to recover ill-gotten wealth," he said.

Carranza said the Macapagal administration was bent on pursuing before the Sandiganbayan the eight recovery cases involving the assets acquired or controlled by Cojuangco and other associates of the late former President Ferdinand Marcos, who allegedly bled the national coffers during the dictatorship.

"There has never been a discussion of any compromise agreement with Danding," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday. "Malacañang has ordered us to litigate against Danding and recover the shares in SMC. Why would we litigate if we would compromise in the end?"

He said the PCGG was keen on getting the control not only of the 27 percent SMC shares funded through the coconut levy fund but also the 20-percent stake being claimed by Cojuangco.

Although the Supreme Court has allowed Cojuangco to vote on the 20-percent stake, which allowed him to retain chairmanship of SMC during the Estrada regime, the courts have yet to settle the ownership issue involving the said stake.

Carranza said the PCGG and the Office of the Solicitor General were not keen on the proposal of the SSS president to revive plans of selling the 27-percent SMC stake and the compromise deal with Cojuangco.

Under a previous deal between Cojuangco and the Estrada administration, the government agreed to drop all charges against Cojuangco and allowed him to get the 20-percent stake he has been claiming. The government, for its part, was allowed to sell the 27-percent sequestered stake in the food and beverage company.

"The SSS should focus more on its disastrous investments in Equitable Bank rather than involve itself in issues concerning the PCGG and the sequestered shares. Like the SSS, which has the mandate to protect its members, the PCGG has the mandate to recover ill-gotten wealth," Carranza said.

Nañagas had proposed to forge a compromise with Cojuangco in order to be able to sell the sequestered stake in SMC.

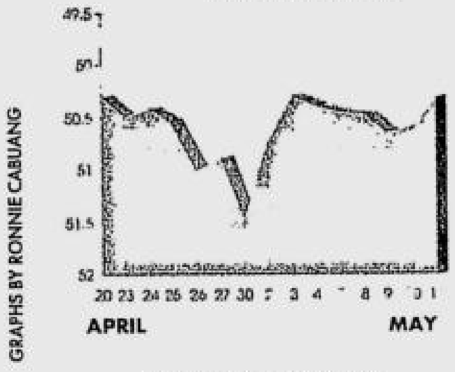
For the PCGG, however, talks of a compromise deal were premature as it claimed to have enough evidence to strip Cojuangco of even the

NO/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱50.30 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 11, 2001

¥122.62 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 122.62 as of 5 p.m., May 11, 2001

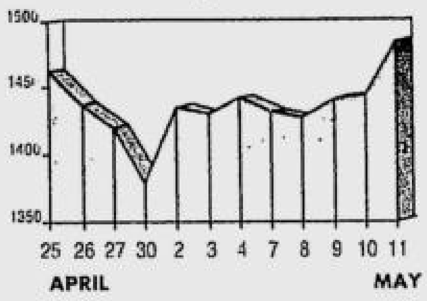
GOLD:$269.10/269.60

per ounce Hong Kong, May 11, 2001

GRAPHS BY JOEL S. PARADEZA

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B3)

Stocks up 2.84%

BARGAIN-HUNTING prior to the May 14 national elections yesterday powered up local stocks by 2.84 percent bringing the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index to its highest level since the Supreme Court upheld the legitimacy of the Macapagal administration.

The Phisix ended the last trading day of the week at 1,484.83, the highest level since April 6, as investors heavily bet that the administration party will be able to get the upper hand in next week's race. Yesterday's value turnout was at P1.13 billion.

The main-share Phisix was up by 40.98 points while the all-shares index advanced by 20.37 points, led by the gains by the property sector and the commercial-industrial sectors.

Vickers Ballas Securities Phils. assistant director for sales Enrique Sta. Ana said local investors were really aggressive in buying local stocks yesterday although there were also some foreign buying in selective blue-chip counters such as Meralco B.

"The big volume is a good sign. Investors who have been staying out of the market waited until the last day to place their bets," he said.

Despite the disappointing first quarter performance of some blue chips, Sta. Ana said the strong volume yesterday indicated that there would still be some follow-through buying next week despite some expected profit-taking activities.

Sugar conversion fees hit ₱1.4B

THE SUGAR producers and millers industry has generated some P1.41 billion in sugar conversion fees from export-quality sugar made available locally.

Confederation of Sugar Producers Association Inc. president Bernard Trebol said the fees grew as world market prices at the time were at historic lows and below production cost.

Sugar Regulatory Administration head James Ledesma said some P600 million out of the P1.41 billion in conversion fees would partly finance the sector's competitiveness and production capability programs.

Known as the sugar agricultural competitiveness enhancement funds, this was generated out of the sugar importation from 1998 to 1999.

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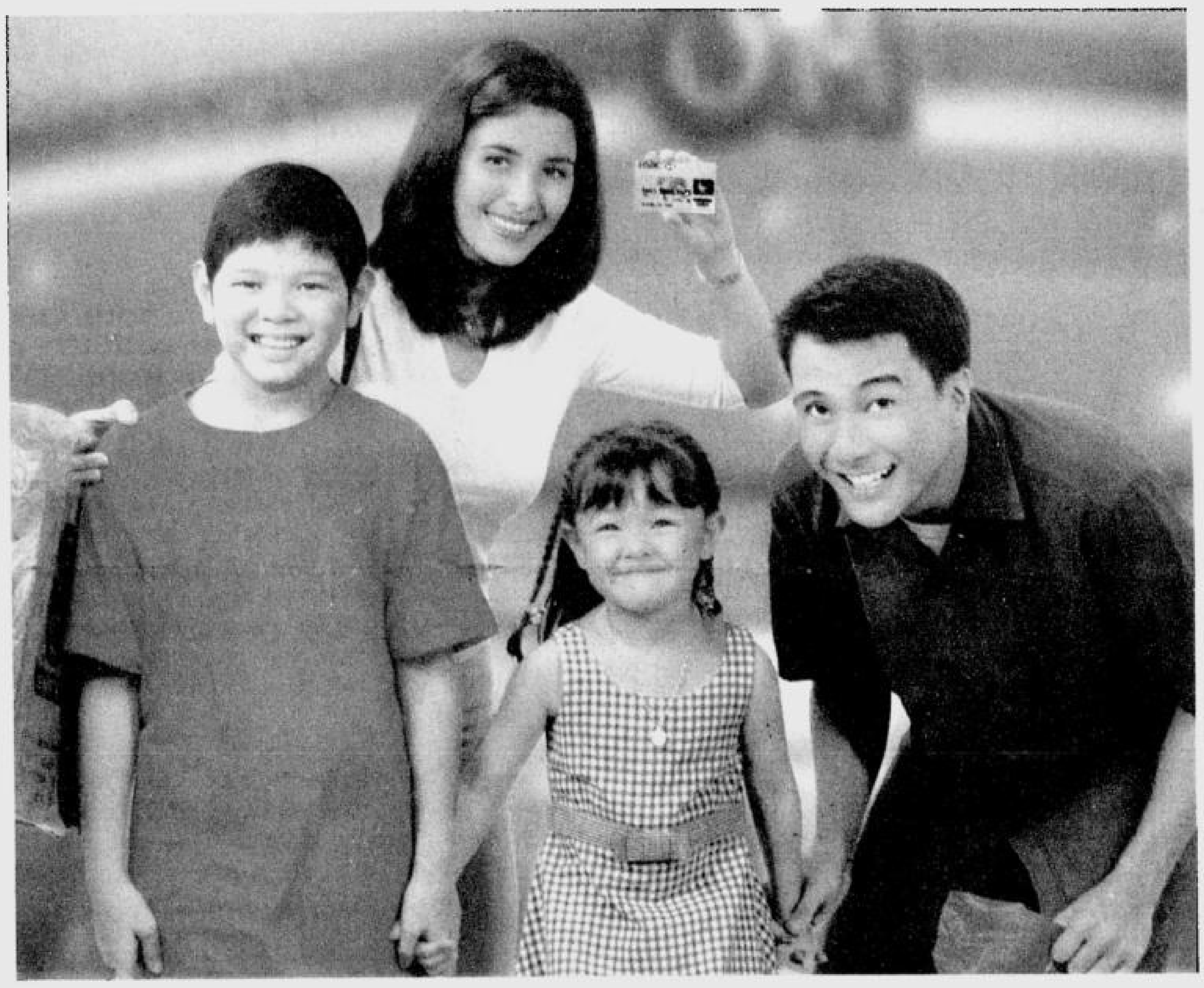

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Urban Bank story: A continuing ordeal

By Raul C. Dancel

(Last of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

BURIED beneath the reports, affidavits, white papers and poison e-mails that have piled up about Urban Bank are the stories of people who lost more than just their money when the bank shut down on April 26 last year. These are unpleasant memories, but some of them have to be told so that Urban Bank will be remembered as more than just a story of a bank that ran out of money and went bust. It is about life.

For 34-year-old freelance interior designer Bernaden Bataclan, Urban Bank was a nightmare she woke up to one morning. "It was 9 or 10 in the morning, and I was trying to follow up a check I deposited that had bounced. That was when I found out Urban Bank was going on a bank holiday."

She and her husband barely had P150 on hand. It was disconcerting for her to think that she only had that much money for 15 days. She had two children to feed, suppliers to pay, and educational plans to cover, and she could not do anything. All her money—her ATM, checking and savings accounts—were all frozen when Urban Bank closed down.

"It is hard to explain how I feel. *Wala akong niloko at hindi ako mayaman.* I have always led a simple lifestyle and prioritized what was important. *Ayaw kong mag-isip ng masama*, but I do blame the bank," she said.

One year had passed since Urban Bank went belly-up, and it had been one long ordeal for Bataclan and her family. She was forced to sell her car, she lost her credit standing with her suppliers, and she pushed herself to work doubly hard.

"At the rally at Urban Plaza, I brought my two kids with me, and we stayed from lunch time to afternoon. It has all been a painful lesson," she said.

Orphaned orphanage

In the case of Ron Fullerton, it wasn't just his own family he had to worry about.

Because of Urban Bank's closure, he lost about P7 million, the money that he and his wife had been trying to raise over the last 10 years as a support fund for their 12-year-old foundation.

The foundation is taking care of 73 orphans. These are the children that government-run orphanages had to turn away because of their handicaps: missing limbs, blindness, deafness, autism, Down's Syndrome. Caring for them and treating them cost about P500,000 a month, which Ron says he and his wife have to virtually beg for each day.

Chosen Children Village Foundation, a private institution formed by Ron and Lita Fullerton in 1989 to help physically and mentally handicapped orphans find foster homes, placed all the money it could afford to spare—all P6.8 million of it—in Urban Bank. The money, Ron said, served as a "crutch."

"In other words, if we fail to get sponsors for the children, and our expenses exceed collections that would come in for a given month, we had something to turn to. We could turn to that bank account and pull out P50,000. It acted as a crutch whenever it was required," he explained.

The money was also a trust fund for the children, something that the Fullertons had hoped would one day generate enough interest earnings to take care of the orphanage's daily needs.

It was money Ron and Lita were setting aside for the children's future, money that they placed in a bank they thought they could trust. "It was a mistake," Ron said in retrospect.

Precarious

"Precarious" was how Ron described Chosen Children's financial situation when it lost its Urban Bank account. The foundation's remaining reserve amounts to only about P700,000 in petty cash which is deposited with BPI Family Bank. Ron knew that unless help arrives or a miracle happens and Urban Bank quickly reopens, that money wouldn't last one month.

In a letter he sent out in May last year, Ron informed the foundation's trustees that with only its petty cash to rely on, "it is easy to understand that, in the middle part of June, we will be experiencing difficulties in providing the proper nutrition and medical care to the 70 disabled and orphaned children now residing in the village."

The first thing Ron and his wife did was to keep a tight rein on the foundation's expenses.

"We didn't have to cut costs so much as we have to watch them. It meant watching our expenses, making sure that our monthly expenses equal the collections of the sponsorships," says Ron.

Tightrope act

Chosen Children sits on a 2.4-hectare lot in Silang, Cavite, that costs a huge sum to maintain. It has seven cottages run by 40 full-time

URBAN/ B6

BSP to issue rules governing bank directors

By Clarissa S. Batino

LEARNING from its experience with Urban Bank Inc. and Equitable PCI Bank, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will issue next week a circular that will hold bank directors directly accountable for bank failures or violations of banking laws.

With the circular, BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said bank directors could no longer "wash their hands off any bank transactions that are potentially dangerous to the bank's financial health."

"The board of directors are now obliged to be aware of what is happening in their institutions. They will be accountable for any violation of banking laws and regulations that their banks may commit," said Reyes.

Urban Bank and Equitable PCI directors have claimed that they were not aware of the anomalous transactions entered into by their respective institutions that led to their liquidity problems.

Urban Bank was forced to go into a holiday on April 26, 2000 while Equitable PCI had to seek a P30-billion emergency assistance from the BSP after it suffered heavy withdrawals from late last year to early this year.

The BSP has outlined in the circular 14 specific duties of the board and seven responsibilities of each director.

"If they follow the guidelines, we would have stronger banks and less Dosri-related problems," he said.

Dosri refers to transactions entered into by bank directors, officers, shareholders and related interests.

The BSP mandates the boards of local banks to select and appoint competent management teams, draw up sound business strategies, conduct the affairs of the institutions with a high degree of integrity, adopt a written policy on all major business activities, prescribe in writing clear assignments of responsibilities and to effectively supervise the affairs of the bank's trust.

The banks' boards of directors are also required to meet regularly, keep individual members and shareholders informed of any developments in the concerned banks, assess and control the performance of the bank management, adopt and maintain an adequate risk management policy, constitute an audit and nomination committee to oversee internal control system, ensure that the trust entity will have beneficial influence on the economy and strictly adhere to the banks' articles of incorporation.

The circular requires a bank director to have a working knowledge of laws and regulations affecting the institution, conduct fair and business transactions to ensure that personal interest will not influence board decisions, act honestly and in good faith with the best interest of the institution at heart, devote time and attention to the bank's operations, act judiciously before deciding on any matter brought to the board's attention, exercise independent judgement, and observe confidentiality of non-public information.

Directors who will be found guilty of violating the prescribed standards face a P30,000 penalty for universal and commercial banks; P15,000 for thrift banks, and P1,000 for local cooperative banks.

The BSP said it was determined to raise the governance standards of banks operating locally to avert future disasters and bank failures caused by abuses of people who run the bank.

No deal . . .

(From page B1)

20-percent stake which the court had allowed him to vote on.

"Any compromise would ignore the more important fact that these shares came from the levy paid by small coconut farmers," he said.

However, he said the government has no intention of keeping these shares. The government intends to sell its shares in the SMC after winning the litigation against Cojuangco and other Marcos associates, but definitely not in exchange for the immunity from suit of Cojuangco, who took control of SMC in 1998.

Carranza said the PCGG was also preparing a supplemental petition detailing how the government would have voted had the Supreme Court allowed the nomination of the five Macapagal appointees to replace the Estrada men in the board.

The PCGG supplemental petition would in effect nullify the results of the recent elections that retained Cojuangco as SMC chair. The petition would be given to the Supreme Court after elections to avoid accusations that it was politically motivated, said Carranza.

The PCGG commissioner also said that the PCGG has been working on measures to remove the Estrada nominees in UCPB, the bank administering the Coconut Industry Investment Fund. These nominees, he said, have yet to vacate their posts in the bank.

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PH1NVA02

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, May 11, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	1,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	78	78.5	77.5	78	1,557,400
China Banking Corp.	670	750	670	750	6,930
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	44.5	46.5	44.5	46	290,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	214	206	214	166,160
Philippine National Bank	49.5	50.5	49	50.5	98,600
Rizal Comm'l Bkg Corp. A	24.5	26	24.5	26	5,900
Security Bank Corp.	19.75	19.75	18.75	19.25	6,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	100,000
Filipino Fund Inc	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.4	310,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1270	1300	1270	1300	8,860
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1070	1085	1070	1085	13,670
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40	41	40	41	15,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.46	0.43	0.46	3,050,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	700	700	700	700	1,390
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	200,000
Piltel	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	260,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	700	720	700	715	416,360
Ivantage Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	330,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.043	0.048	0.043	0.048	283,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41.5	44.5	41.5	43.5	329,700
Manila Electric Co. B	58.5	60	58.5	59.5	1,895,200
Petron Corp.	1.72	1.82	1.72	1.8	13,810,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	120,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.44	1.54	1.42	1.52	9,993,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	450,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	40,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	56,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	12,002,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.25	3.5	3.2	3.35	3,305,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.5	1,276,400
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	29	29	28.5	29	1,335,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	95	95	95	95	200
RFM Corp.	0.98	1.04	0.98	1.04	1,480,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	47.5	46.5	47.5	82,300
San Miguel Corp. B	50	51	49.5	51	408,400
Universal Robina Corp.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	53,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.64	0.7	0.64	0.7	240,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.65	0.71	0.65	0.71	30,000
Ayala Corp.	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.7	1,708,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.24	1.32	1.24	1.3	1,111,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	13.25	12.5	13	5,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.84	0.78	0.84	170,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	390,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.5	1.56	1.5	1.54	9,627,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.41	0.38	0.41	870,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.095	0.135	0.095	0.125	44,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.12	1,621,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24.25	23.75	24.25	160,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.27	0.22	0.27	3,050,000
Ipeople Inc.	1	1	0.92	0.92	106,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1	1	1	1	91,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.92	2.02	1.92	2.02	519,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	6,110,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.52	0.48	0.52	3,470,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.55	60,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6	6	6	6	30,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	7,460,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	20,000
Music Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.8	536,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	160,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.25	15.75	15	15.75	229,700
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.48	0.51	0.48	0.5	1,090,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.53	0.49	0.52	2,690,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	90,000
Manila Jockey Club	21	21	21	21	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	39.5	41	39.5	40.5	536,900
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	14,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.6	46,000
Globe Tel. A-Warrants	520	520	520	520	40
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	8,600
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	41,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10	10	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.034	0.039	0.034	0.039	153,900,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.8	13,405,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	300,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.35	12,570,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.37	0.34	0.36	5,760,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.1	2.24	2.1	2.22	24,108,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	160,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7.2	6.9	7.1	12,539,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Zipporah Rlty Hldgs Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	43,000,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	80,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	39,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	11,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	7,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	11,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	13,600,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.085	600,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,570,720	206,293,735.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	617,495,690	682,522,670.00
PRO	112,442,000	244,670,240.00
Mining	57,230,000	430,000.00
OIL	26,300,000	548,100.00
GRAND TOTALS :	816,038,410	1,134,464,745.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	619.96	UP 8.87
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,018.19	UP 52.42
PRO	590.81	UP 20.15
Mining	1,152.64	UP 6.69
OIL	1.44	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	772.29	UP 20.37
Composite	1,484.83	UP 40.98

NO. OF ADVANCES: 73; NO. OF DECLINES: 6; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 26; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 105; NO. OF TRADES: 4,242

CURRENCIES

May 11, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.134173	1.000000	50.6240
Japan	Yen	0.009247	0.008153	0.4127
United Kingdom	Pound	1.613020	1.422200	71.9975
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145418	0.128215	6.4908
Switzerland	Franc	0.651000	0.573987	29.0575
Canada	Dollar	0.735187	0.648214	32.8152
Singapore	Dollar	0.624545	0.550661	27.8767
Australia	Dollar	0.594648	0.524301	26.5422
Bahrain	Dinar	3.008575	2.652661	134.2883
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.302438	0.266660	13.4994
Brunei	Dollar	0.620445	0.547046	27.6937
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000090	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.024948	0.021997	1.1136
UAE	Dirham	0.308828	0.272294	13.7846
Korea	Won	0.000869	0.000766	0.0388
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.881700	44.6352
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.450806	22.8216
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134414	6.8046
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.400098	20.2546
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064076	3.2438
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021857	1.1065
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000455	0.0230
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.148291	7.5071
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004398	0.2226
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005299	0.2683
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.021857	1.1065
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.119528	56.6750

ABS-CBN reports slightly higher unaudited Q1 income

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. reported yesterday a slightly higher first quarter unaudited net income of P420.17 million, sustaining revenue growth from advertising despite a difficult business environment.

The company, a unit of conglomerate Benpres Holdings Corp. and the Philippines' largest media firm, had posted a net income of P418.66 million in the same year-ago period.

Consolidated revenue was P2.34 billion, up 26.5 percent from a year-earlier P1.85 billion. Airtime revenue, around 91 percent of total revenue, grew 17.8 percent on the year to P2.12 billion on the back of robust performance of television and the consolidation of the company's ultra-high frequency operations.

"Airtime revenues from TV-VHF, which account for about 90 percent of total airtime revenues, maintained its healthy pace growing by 15 percent year on year as the company continued to dominate ratings during the period," ABS-CBN said in its financial statement.

TV-VHF is a terrestrial channel owned by ABS-CBN, which has a 44-percent share of the capital's average audience.

Shares of ABS-CBN closed up P1 at P41, in line with the composite index of key blue chips, which rose 2.84 percent to 1,484.83 points. The composite includes ABS-CBN.

However, radio and sports revenues declined, as these were "negatively affected by the difficult economic and political environment which took its toll on radio and other forms of niche advertising media," the company said.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization grew by 26.4 percent on the year to P1.01 billion.

The company said higher financing costs pushed its other income to register an expense of P66 million from a net income position of P7.8 million a year ago.

"The company increased borrowings to fund its increased expenditures, which included the acquisition of broadcast equipment and continued construction of the company's new broadcast complex," ABS-CBN said.

The company's cash flow statement showed an increase in bank loans of P520.81 million in the first quarter from only P7.82 million a year ago. *With a report from Reuters*

Ayala reports near-flat earnings

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

PREMIER conglomerate Ayala Corp. yesterday reported that its first quarter consolidated profit stood at P1.31 billion, almost flat from the same period last year's P1.37 billion.

This developed as weak earnings from its property business negated sharp increases in profits posted by its banking and telecommunication businesses.

"Despite the current improvement in interest rates, the spillover effect of higher interest rates, particularly in the last quarter of 2000, tempered the robust earnings contributed by Ayala's investments in Bank of the Philippine Islands and Globe Telecom," the company said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

"The operating performance does not reflect yet the revenues commensurate with the recent investments, but the potential upsides and realizable market values from these investments have started to be felt in the results of the conglomerate's key businesses," it said.

In banking, Bank of the Philippine Islands said its consolidated net income doubled to P2.14 billion from P1.07 billion of the first quarter of the previous year, buoyed by a 20.7-percent rise in revenues owing to wider net margins and higher foreign exchange gains.

On the other hand, Globe Telecom Inc. recorded a 219-percent increase in net income to P1.07 billion from the previous year's first quarter net income of P335 million.

This was on the back of strong record earnings from increasing subscriber base, which reached over 3 million by the end of the first quarter. The wireless business accounted for a dominant 83 percent of total operating revenues while the wireline and carrier services contributed 12 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

Meanwhile, its property arm Ayala Land Inc. posted a consolidated net income of P521 million for the period, 19 percent lower than the previous year.

Jollibee says Q1 net grew 4.2%

JOLLIBEE Foods Corp., the country's largest fast-food chain, said yesterday its net income expanded by 4.2 percent year-on-year in the first quarter to P217 million.

In a statement, it said its systemwide retail sales increased 20 percent to P5.5 billion.

Shares of Jollibee were unchanged at P13.50 at the close. The 33-share composite index jumped 2.84 percent to 1,484.83 points.

The company announced earlier that it would put up more branches this year to make up for last year's disappointing expansion rate.

Jollibee purchasing manager Sammy Dalisay Jr. told the INQUIRER the country's No. 1 hamburger chain would put up 50 new branches this year.

"In year 2001, we believe we could bounce back and improve our branch expansion rate," he said.

Dalisay admitted that last year's political and economic uncertainties took their toll on Jollibee's expansion plans. The company was able to open only 24 Jollibee stores and two Greenwich Pizza outlets.

Jollibee's financial performance last year offered no major surprises.

Reuters

Napocor reports 6.3% sales hike

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. has reported a 6.3-percent year-on-year increase in first quarter electricity sales.

The state-run firm said sales rose to 8.96 gigawatt-hours from January to March this year from 8.43 gwh in the same period last year.

Napocor's market analysis and load forecasting division said in a report energy sales were 4.4 percent higher than the original projection of 8.57 gwh.

Napocor said sales went up on higher-than-expected demand from its customers.

Demand from the Manila Electric Co., Napocor's biggest customer, grew 6 percent year-on-year.

Meralco bought some 5.26 gwh in the first three months compared to 4,969 gwh in the first quarter of 2000.

Napocor said Meralco had to increase its purchases because of the limited operation of two independent power producers from which it also bought electricity.

These are Quezon Power Philippines' coal-fired Mauban power plant and First Gas Power Corp.'s combined cycle Sta. Rita power plant.

Meralco officials earlier said they had a compromise agreement with Napocor not to use power from these power plants so long as the excess power supply in the country remained.

They said the agreement was meant to optimize all power plants and transmission lines.

In an earlier statement, Napocor reported a 2.79-percent decline in sales for the whole of 2000 vis-a-vis 1999 figures.

The firm said the decline was due to an 8.15-percent decline in Meralco's power purchases.

This year's sales growth was spread throughout all the major grids, with Visayas registering the highest at 7.1 percent.

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **International Container Terminal Services Inc.** were Enrique Razon Jr., Eduardo Soriano, Ramon Alegre, Jose Ibazeta, Stephen Paradies, Dante Santos, Andres Soriano III and Ernest Cuyegkeng. Also, the company disclosed that it won in the bidding for the 30-year concession for the Port of Suape in Brazil.

***

ELECTED to the board of **Bankard Inc.** were Alfonso Yuchengco III, Cesar Virata, Rizalino Navarro, Valentin Araneta, Ryo Narumai, Rogelio Chua, Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., Eduardo Lopez Jr., Michelle Santos, Guia Margarita Cua and Tadeo Hilado.

***

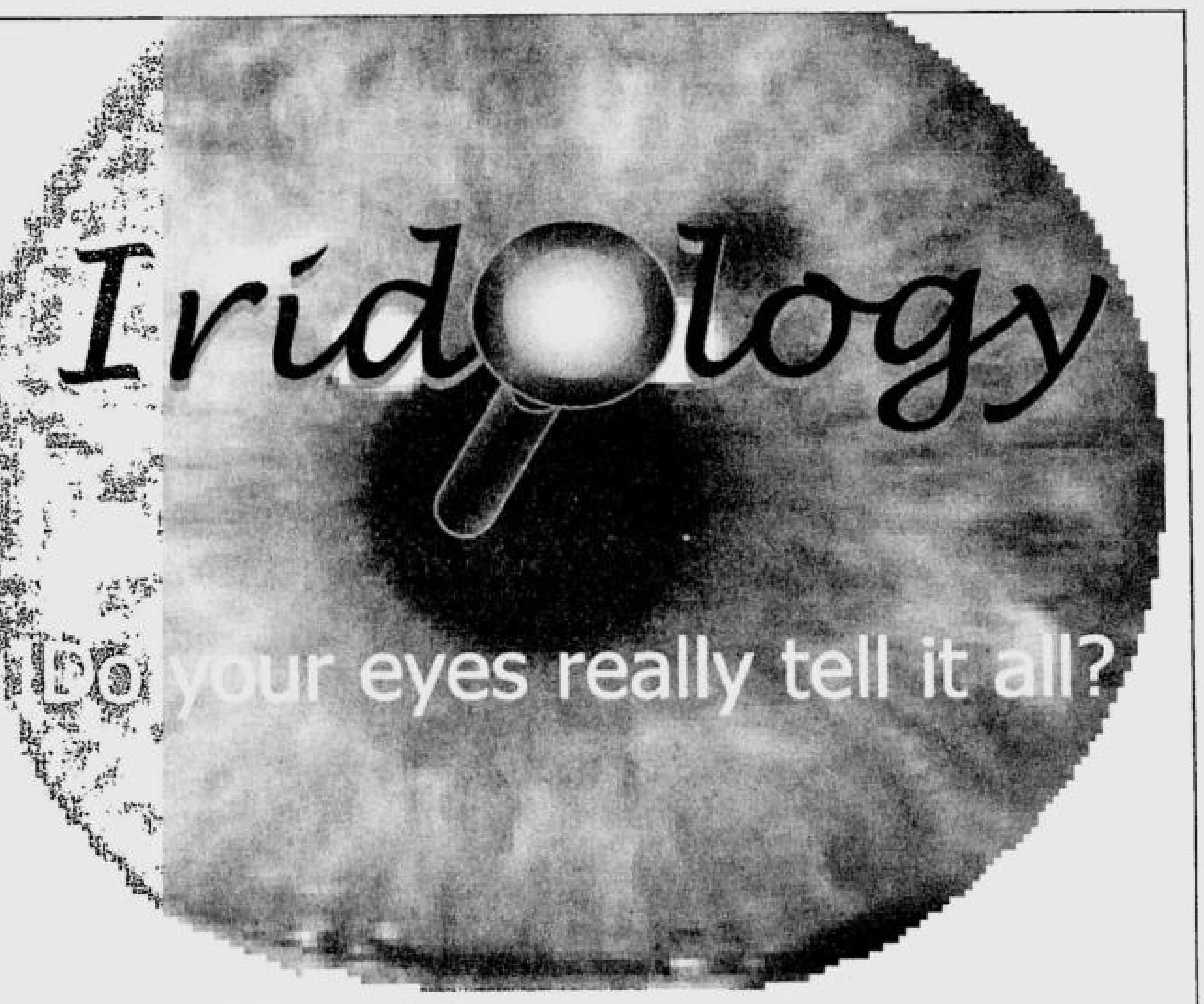
ELECTED directors of **Filinvest Land Inc.** were Andrew Gotianun Sr., Mercedes Gotianun, Efren Gutierrez, Andrew Gotianun Jr., Jonathan Gotianun, Joseph Yap and Alfredo Asuncion.

***

VULCAN Industrial & Mining Corp. will auction the company's delinquent shares as of May 1. Auction will be on June 18, 10 a.m. at the 6/F Quad Alpha Centrum Building in Mandaluyong City.

***

BELLE Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from May to June 28 with record date set for May 28. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*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Card Sales Agents / Telemarketers Needed Call Ayel at 914-3413/14 12-4pm

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Med Tech S.F.Lic 250D.PLUSALW Call 7111967/7126452 Add 2640 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz

GOVERNESS TUTOR TO KOR KIDS;MALE ENG TUTOR TO ADULT KOR CALL HONEYLET 8129667/9509 OFFICE HRS

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Qualifications:

☑ Male or female, 35 to 45 years old
☑ College graduate of a four-year course
☑ With positive disposition and customer/client oriented
☑ Experience in related field preferred

Mail resumé with 2x2 colored picture to:

P.O. Box 2532
MCPO Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

UNISYS

A global I.T. Sales & Services company requires a

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who has at least 10 years experience in Business Process Reengineering and Solutions Architecture, Design and Integration as applied in the Public Sector. Experience in Biometrics/ID systems. Applicants may send resumé to philippines@ph.unisys.com

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A global I.T. Sales & Services company requires a

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who has at least 10 years of high level Project Management experience involving large-scale system integration projects for the Government and/or Utilities sector.

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FOR SALE

BOILERS (Enertech)

1 unit	450 HP 3 Pass Wetback Boiler
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COMPACT POWDER FILLING & PACKAGING MACHINES

4 units	Komack KP -109
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TOKIWA PACKING MACHINE

2 units	Model LSI-105

BRAISING PAN w/ Scrapper

2 units	50-Gallon SS Braising Pans

All are used items and in good working condition. These are offered as is where is.

*For details call **Gerry** or **Dado** at **681-7961** or **Ms. Lulu Jose** at **631-8101** local **7902***

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JOY

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE of loss the following shares of stock WILLIAM C. LIU have been declared lost BPI cert. nos. 129567 /129568

Notice is given to the public on the loss of **Alabang Country Club Stock Certificate No. B-279 in the name of Singer Sewing Machine Company.** If no contest received, new certificate will be issued.
PDI-May 5, 12 & 19, 2001

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

The following shares of stock of **WILLIAM C. LIU** have been declared lost : BPI certificate nos. 129567 /129568
(PDI-May 5, 12 & 19, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following certificates of stocks in the name of **ROSITO C. MANHIT** have been declared lost: 1 share Quezon City Sports Club, 1 share Valley Golf and Country Club, 1 share Valle Verde Country Club and 2 Security Bank Stock Certificates Numbers 188 & 331.
(PDI-May 12,19& 26, 2001)

BITS & Clips

Workshops at Ali Mall

ALI Mall plays host to summer workshops for kids and the not-so-kids. The workshop program includes teaching young children (May 21, 23 and 25), and writing for newspapers, poems, theater and television (May 14, 16 and 18). These will be conducted by the Teatro Cantarte de Cubao. The Center for Pop Music Philippines will also conduct a training program on voice and stage performance. For more information and registration arrangements, call the marketing office c/o liaison assistant Robert Paringit at 911-1428 or 911-3101 local 8308, telefax 912-2159, or e-mail lucindo@pworld.net.ph.

Citibank, HP offer zero interest

THE COUNTRY'S leading name in credit cards and one of the world's leading brands in computers and printers have teamed up to give you the chance to own top-of-the-line computers, printers, scanners and CD writer at flexible installment terms with no interest. With Citibank's PayLite Installment Plan, get to own a Pavilion 8862 or Pavilion 8853 for P5,249 or P5,835 monthly over 12 months. Both PC models offer the complete home computing solution for the family. Bundle them with a DeskJet 640 printer for an additional P4,000. Visit Hewlett-Packard dealers now. Promo runs until May 15. For more information, call the 24-hour Citiphone at 995-9999 or 234-9999 for Metro Cebu.

PT&T triple treat

HERE'S good news for all PT&T subscribers in Laguna and Rizal. PT&T recently announced the customer-focused "Summer Triple Treat" promo offering improved services in Laguna and Rizal. Users can now enjoy a 50-percent discount on their total amount due and continued local phone service at greatly reduced rates. Disconnected subscribers can also take advantage and have their lines reconnected at only 50 percent of their outstanding balance. The PT&T summer treat promo runs until May 15. Call the local PT&T office in your area for further information.

Study opportunities in UAE

A FREE public seminar on international post-graduate studies in hospitality management offered by a leading Swiss-based hospitality school in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, will be held today, May 12, 2-5 p.m. at the Cypress-Molave Room, 4th floor, Mandarin Hotel. Inter-Ed founder Helen U. Bartholomew said the seminar will be conducted by Ron Hilvert, principal of The Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management of Dubai, an academic partnership between The Emirates Academy and Ecole Hoteliere de Laussane of Switzerland. Registration is now being accepted at International Education Specialists (Inter-Ed) at 819-1001/819-1002, fax 810-2825 or e-mail intered@info.com.ph/study@info.com.ph.

PNB PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Ref. No.	Location	Lot Area (sq.m.)	Floor Area		Indicative Price
METRO MANILA					
MM-B0705	252 Sampaguita St., Cainta Greenland Exec. Vill., Cainta, Rizal	293	120	P	2,600,000.00
MM-B0706	No. 111 K-7th St., East Kamias, Quezon City	150	-	P	2,100,000.00
MM-B0707	2125 Road 16, San Andres, Manila	120	143	P	2,000,000.00
MM-B0708	AFP Officers Vill., Western Bicutan, Taguig	737	-	P	1,900,000.00
MM-B0709	36 Apollo 11 St., San Gregorio Vill., Pasay City	123.80	118	P	1,800,000.00
MM-B0710	No. 21 Gardenia St., Don Aguedo Bernabe Subd. San Antonio Vill., 5, Parañaque City	196	114	P	1,700,000.00
MM-B0711	Cor. Abelardo & Bacht STs., Ideal Subd., Bgy. Commonwealth, Quezon City	262	84	P	1,600,000.00
MM-B0714	Apo St., Mountainview Villas, Filinvest II, Quezon City	96	48	P	1,500,000.00
MM-B0712	18 Vision St., Rim View Park, Bgy. Concepcion II, Marikina City	356	116	P	1,400,000.00
MM-B0713	Everlasting Circle, South Greenheights Subd., Putatan, Muntinlupa City	359	-	P	1,200,000.00
MM-B0715	Villa Fidela Subd., Bgy. Aldana, Las Piñas City	150	-	P	825,000.00
MM-B0716	Venus St., Costellation Homes, Zabarte, Caloocan City	224	53	P	800,000.00
MM-B0717	Hiyas Villa 2, Sto. Niño St., San Agustin Village Moonwalk, Parañaque City	184	-	P	700,000.00
MM-B0718	Wawa, Moonwalk, Parañaque City	100	-	P	250,000.00
LUZON:					
LU-B0719	Newtown Ave., Greenland Newtown Exec. Subd., Ampid, San Mateo, Rizal	236	98	P	1,300,000.00
LU-B0720	Emerald St., Pines City Royale, Antipolo City	150	73	P	900,000.00
LU-B0721	305 Daffodil St., Cainta Greenland Subd., Cainta, Rizal	132	68	P	900,000.00
LU-B0722	Natividad Vill., Burgos, Rodriguez, Rizal	150	70	P	800,000.00
LU-B0723	39 Sampaguita St., Torres Subd., San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal	248	54	P	800,000.00
LU-B0724	Rose cor. Ivy Sts., Ferrerville Subd., San Roque Antipolo, Rizal	66	54	P	650,000.00
LU-B0725	Bgy. San Jose, GMA, Cavite	198	96	P	500,000.00
LU-B0726	Sampaguita Ext., Sitio Adia, San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal	254	-	P	400,000.00
LU-B0727	Bgy. Makinabang, Baliuag, Bulacan	2,007	-	P	400,000.00
MINDANAO:					
MI-B0728	2501 San Nicolas St., Sta. Cecilia Village, Gusa, Cagayan de Oro City	464	170	P	2,400,000.00

For further inquiry and prescribed forms, please visit us at 8/F Acquired Assets Administration & Sales Division, PNB Financial Center Roxas Blvd., Pasay City or call us and ask for the following officers:

	Reference No.	Telephone Nos.
Raymond B. Lauraya	MM-B0710, MM-B0715, MM-B0718 and MI-B0728	573-4333
Jojo S. Cruz	MM-B0705, MM-B0707,MM-B0713, MM-B0716 and LU-B0720	891-6040 loc. 4707
Chito D. Bustamante	MM-B0714 and LU-B0719	526-3361
Manny B. Severino	MM-B0706, MM-B0711, MM-B0712, MM-B0716 and LU-B0724	526-3406
Ronnie T. Antonio	MM-B0708, MM-B0709, LU-B0721, LU-B0722 LU-B0723, LU-B0726, LU-B0725 and LU-B0727	526-3531

Sealed offer/s to buy must be submitted to the above officers not later than 4:30 P.M., May 17, 2001. The offer/s must be labeled Ref. No. 05/9 & 12/ 2001-AAASD.

The properties are available for sale on cash or installment and on an "As Is, Where Is" basis.

Highest and acceptable bid is subject to approval by the Bank's appropriate approving committee.

PNB reserves the right to withdraw any/or all the properties from the above list any time before the deadline for submission of offers for whatever purposes.

ACQUIRED ASSETS ADMINISTRATION & SALES DIVISION

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY
Quezon City

Invitation for Accreditation of Independent Private Appraisal Companies

The National Housing Authority is inviting private appraisal companies which will conduct appraisal of real estate holdings for disposition/acquisition for accreditation provided the following criteria are met:

1 Must be a duly licensed appraisal company registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Bureau of Domestic Trade, with authority to conduct business;
2 Must be a member of either the Institute of Philippine Real Estate Appraisers (IPREA) or the Philippine Association of Real Estate Appraisers (PARA); and
3 Must be in the appraisal business for at least two (2) years as supported by duly audited Financial Statement with the Auditor's report duly stamped by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR)

Interested parties are advised to get in touch with the Program and Marketing Development Division, Commercial and Industrial Estate Department, second floor, NHA Building, Diliman, Quezon City or contact Cora Abello at telephone number 922-3002 for further information about the required documents which shall be submitted on or before June 8, 2001.

(Sgd.) EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN
General Manager
National Housing Authority

(PDI -- May 12 & 19 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
ELLIPTICAL ROAD, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY TELS. 928-7031 to 39

INVITATION TO SUBMIT NOMINEES FOR GOLDEN PLOW AWARD

DAR is going to celebrate June as CARP month. It will be marked by an awarding ceremony for The Presidential Golden Plow awardees. DAR is inviting all qualified nominating entities to submit their nomination for The Award. Deadline for submission of nominees is on May 22, 2001. Please address your nominations to:

Hon. Hernani A. Braganza
Secretary
Department of Agrarian Reform
Elliptical Road, Quezon City
Attention: Personnel Division

A. Background:

The Presidential Golden Plow Award is an award that recognizes the vision, reason, and courage of those who selflessly render extraordinary and outstanding service or contribution to humanity in the implementation of the land reform and Comprehensive Agrarian Reform. This award recognizes the service or contribution of individuals, groups of individuals or institutions with far-reaching consequences and emulative effect to Man and Society.

B. Scope of the Award:

(1) Public Service - Extraordinary and outstanding service or contribution for the public good and interest by a private citizen or individual; group of private citizens or individuals; or private institutions;

(2) International Understanding - Extraordinary and outstanding service or contribution in the promotion and advancement of international amity through mutual help and assistance by individuals, group of individuals or institutions whether private, governmental, domestic or foreign;

(3) Government Service - Extraordinary and outstanding service or contribution for the public good and interest in any field of land reform and Comprehensive Agrarian Reform by any officer or employee of the government of the Republic of the Philippines.

There are three (3) categories of awards for every field of endeavor, namely: (a) individual; (b) group of individuals, and (c) institutional.

There is one award for each of the three fields of endeavor. These are: (a) one award for Public Service; (b) one award for International Understanding; and (c) one award for Government Service.

An award may be joint between individuals, group of individuals, institutions, or between any two of the three categories or among the three categories which/who are considered by the DAR, upon recommendation of the Committee on Awards, to be equally deserving of recognition in a given year.

C. Criteria For Selection:

1. Performance of an extraordinary and outstanding service or contribution for the public good and interest specifically in the furtherance of the objective of land and agrarian reform.
2. Evidence of sustained effect of contribution or work performance over and above the normal duty requirements of a given individual, group of individuals, or institutions.
3. Contribution to the cause of land and agrarian reform or Performance of extraordinary and outstanding service is of such far-reaching consequence and emulative effect on Man and Society.

D. Procedure:

The award is open to any person, group of persons, regardless of sex, race, creed or nationality; or institutions, whether private or governmental, domestic or foreign.

The following procedural guidelines shall be observed:

1 To come under consideration for an award, a person, group of persons or an institution shall be recommended in writing by someone with the competence therefore in accordance with the pertinent provision of Executive Order 150.
2. Competence to submit nominations shall be enjoyed by persons, both Filipinos and foreigners, within the particular field of endeavor concerned and in conformity with the following pertinent provisions of Executive Order 150:

Who Are Competent to Nominate:

Public Service
(a) Persons who have received this award in this field;
(b) Heads of state or private educational institutions;
(c) Leaders of private organizations or institutions, national in scope, whose purposes are: to work for improving the status of farmers and farmhands or laborers, encourage cottage industry, increase and diversify agricultural production, improve rural health and education, promote cooperative movement for rural credit, improve production and marketing of farm products, promote the dissemination as well as free discussion of information and matters of public interest, stimulate and promote rural improvements and proper development of human and natural resources, train rural reconstruction personnel or cooperate with the State in carrying out programs or rural reconstruction, and all other activities related to and connected with land reform;
(d) Other persons who, because of their work, study or background are in close touch with individuals, groups or associated identified with the purposes above

International Understanding Award
(a) Persons who have received the award in this field:
(b) Heads of United Nations Missions and Regional Cooperation Organizations in the Philippines;
(c) Heads of Diplomatic Missions in the Philippines;
(d) Leaders of private and governmental institutions or organizations, international in scope, whose purposes are the promotion and advancement of international amity, friendship and understanding through mutual help and assistance between and among peoples of different countries;
(e) Other persons who, because of their work, study or background, are in close touch with individuals, groups or associations identified with the purpose above stated.

Government Service Award
(a) Persons who have received the award in this field;
(b) Heads of commissions, bureaus or offices for the enhancement of the civil service system;
(c) Heads of institutions or colleges of public administration in the state or private universities;
(d) Leaders of private institutions or organizations, national in scope, whose purposes are: to work for the enhancement of the government service; to encourage research and studies of government activities; and to promote employee welfare;
(e) Other persons, who because of their work, study or background are in a position to follow and watch closely the careers of public servants.

3. Only nominations supported by adequate evidence and submitted by competent persons invited to nominate shall be considered. The following may be nominated:

Who Can Be Nominated

(a) Individuals, groups of individual or institution who have extraordinary and outstanding performance specifically in the furtherance of Land Reform or Agrarian Reform.
(b) Individuals, groups of individual or institution whose work has evidences of sustained effect of contribution to land or agrarian reform over and above normal duty.
(c) Individuals, groups of individual or institution whose contribution to the cause of land or agrarian reform is of such far-reaching consequences and emulative effect on man and his society.

Ideally, only the last five years' accomplishments will be considered. However, performance beyond five years may be considered if its significance has not become apparent until recently

E. What To Submit

1. Profile of nominating individual, group of individuals or institution showing compliance to the provision of section D2 above
2 Nomination proposal highlighting accomplishments based on criteria spelled out in section C and D3a-c above
3. Evidences to the claims stated in the proposal.

F. THE AWARD IS GIVEN ANNUALLY. IF, HOWEVER, IT IS CONSIDERED THAT NONE OF THE NOMINATIONS THAT HAVE COME UNDER CONSIDERATION MERIT RECOGNITION, THE DAR MAY OMIT AWARDS IN ONE OR MORE CATEGORIES IN ANY OR ALL FIELD ENDEAVOR IN ANY GIVEN YEAR.

(Sgd.) ROLANDO LL. QUERUBIN
Undersecretary for Finance, Management and Administrative Office
Chairperson, Awards and Citations Committee

(PDI - May 11 & 12 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Up in arms

Q. What's the difference among *revolution, rebellion*, and *revolt*?

A. A *revolution* succeeds. A *rebellion* fails. A *revolt* may or may not succeed. A *revolution* is associated with plots to "overthrow" the government, and that literally is what a *revolution* does. The essential Latin etymological parts are *re* - ('over') and *volvo* ('turn'), so the government is "overturned" or "overthrown." A *rebellion* is an unsuccessful attempt at *revolution*. In Latin, *rebellio* meant "a renewal of war," based on *re* - ("anew") and *bellum* ("war"). The implication is that rebels want to try again. A *revolt* stresses a casting off of allegiance or a refusal to submit to established authority.

Classified Odd. During the Hundred Years' War between England and France -- a series of wars actually lasting 116 years, from 1337 to 1453 -- Flanders, which was under French rule, rebelled against the French king and supported England. Why? The Flemish depended on English wool for their textile industry.

Good Idea. On May 7, 1888, an ex-bank clerk named George Eastman of Rochester, New York, put a new kind of camera on the American market with the sales pitch: "You press the button, we do the rest." Eastman's Kodak camera was simple black box with a viewer, a lens, a lever for the film -- and the button. It came preloaded with enough of the 34-year-old Eastmans's new fast, flexible film for 100 pictures.

WORD WATCH

Develop (di vel'uhp) : from the Old French *des* - ('un-') +*voloper* ('wrap').

PDI -- May 12, 2001

USAID
U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used office and residential furniture/equipment, appliances, computer equipment, two (2) 25KVA O'Brien Generator sets and a 1992 Chevrolet Suburban, 8-cylinder, 4x2, automatic transmission, on an "AS IS-WHERE IS" basis.

All items can be inspected on May 15-17, 2001 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at USAID Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Blvd., (formerly Tramo St.) Pasay City. Bidforms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) will be on May 17, 2001 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on May 18, 2001 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/Cashier, 8th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

For further Information and lot descriptions, please call Mr. Manuel Fidel C. Holandez and Mr. Alfredo Q. Daluz at Tel.Nos. 831-2271, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

YOUR CAREER MIGHT ONLY BE A CLICK OF THE MOUSE AWAY.

Visit us at www.jobmarketonline.com JOBMarket ONLINE

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila 3008
Tel. Nos. 372-5057, 372-5043
Fax Nos. 372-5048, 372-5042

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources-Fisheries Resource Management Project (BFAR-FRMP), Department of Agriculture (DA) invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of the following items not later than **2:00 PM on May 28, 2001.**

ITEMS TO BID:

Package I : 9 units Airconditioners
Package II : 201 units Ink Jet Printer
Package III : 1 lot Various Computer Software

Bid forms together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section.

A pre-bid conference on Package III: various computer software will be held at the FRMP Conference Room, 2F Estuar Building, 880 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City on **May 17, 2001 at 2:00 PM.**

Submission and opening of bids will be on **May 28, 2001** at FRMP Conference Room.

Bidders must bid for all items in each package. An incomplete bid will be considered not responsive.

Interested bidders are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: photocopies of Business License, Certificate of Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (original copies to be shown for authentication purposes).

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MARCIANO F. CARREON III
Project Director

(PDI – May 12, 2001)

Jobs on air tackles relevant work issues

WEEKLY radio program "Jobs on Air" has become a welcome Sunday afternoon treat for listeners who are in some way interested about work-related issues and concerns. The program has received numerous positive feedback from callers and mailers, praising the show's "unique and focused" approach and objective or preparing workers, jobseekers and managers for the challenges they face in the workplace. It aims to help people find jobs, to become better employees and/or become effective people managers. The show has had discussion with known authorities in various areas of work and people management, touching on topics like employment forecasts, overseas employment, company rules and even romance in the workplace. Among known personalities who have joined the program are Benny Laguesma, Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas, Senators Frank Drilon and Nene Pimentel, Edu Manzano, and Paeng Nepomuceno.

"Jobs on Air" also highlights job openings in different companies as well as reports on the latest employment-related news. It also offers legal advice as well as tips on applying for a job.

"Jobs On Air" is aired Sundays at 3-5:30 p.m. over DWSS, 1494 AM and hosted by Barbie L. Atienza.

Adarna House calls for manuscripts

ADARNA House, the country's pioneer children's book publishing firm, is opening its doors to submissions of children's stories for its July 2002 batch of storybooks. All manuscripts must be typewritten and submitted to 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Quezon City. For more information, call Adarna House at 372-3548 or 49, or email adarnahouse@adarna.com.ph.

Quadro shifts to scents

QUADRO has made a "scent-sational" shift from clothes to fragrances for younger shoppers. Quadro shirts and Quadro scents speak of the youth's freedom and individuality. For the graduates of 2001, Quadro is giving away its cool and refreshing scents on a buy-one, take-one promo at all leading department stores nationwide.

CONSOLIDATION PHASE

BOI sees 15% growth in investments in 2001

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments is targeting a modest 15 percent growth in investments this year to P50 billion as the economy goes into a consolidation phase in view of the abrupt change in administration.

BOI managing head Vince Perez said the BOI has discounted this year as a "transition period" and was looking toward a more explosive growth in the next three years.

While investors are euphoric over the peaceful change in the government last January, they are not expected to immediately make investment commitments until after President Macapagal-Arroyo has settled down in her job and the May 14 election results end up in her favor.

The BOI chalked up P43.611 billion in registered investments last year, the agency's lowest in 12 years as foreign and local investors avoided the country because of its inept and corrupt leadership.

The BOI's 2001 target is just a little over 50 percent of what the Philippine Economic Zone Authority is aspiring for in terms of investments this year—P88.87 billion.

Perez said there were no plans to adjust the BOI's target even though registered investments have already reached P26.6 billion in the first quarter this year, most of which poured in after jailed President Estrada was booted out of office.

Another reason for the BOI's modest investment goal is the sluggish economic growth projected this year with gross domestic product dropping off slightly to 3.8 percent this year from 3.9 percent last year.

The BOI will focus its efforts on promoting five investment areas—agribusiness (to create more jobs and reduce poverty in the provinces); logistics (to cut costs of transporting goods and attracting provincial suppliers); information technology (to generate more foreign exchange revenues); tourism (to promote rural-based services), and education and training (to enhance Filipino labor skills).

Urban Bank: A continuing ordeal

(From page B2)

employees: a nutritionist, several nurses and caregivers, and a support staff of clerks, security guards, cooks, gardeners and cleaners.

With their handicaps, the children needed special equipment and medical care, and more than just off-the-shelf medicines. Regular visits had to be made to the Makati Medical Center and St. Luke's Hospital for consultations with specialists there. In some cases, surgeries in the United States had to be arranged.

Construction took an immediate hit. When the Urban Bank fiasco happened, Chosen Children was building its eighth cottage and was laying the foundation for a ninth. In the first six months since Urban Bank closed down, money for construction was not flowing as fast as it used to.

"We saw the amount of donations for construction take an immediate slowdown from people who were probably also affected, who were concerned about other banks," Ron said.

The foundation's construction schedule was set back by about six months because of Urban Bank's closure. "In other words, if we were going to build this village in eight years, we might have lost half-a-year in the process, not so much that we couldn't do the work, but we weren't getting the funds that we normally might have received because they were not available. It slowed us down. There's no question about that."

The most painful part, however, is that it was forced to put off adding more children to the orphanage.

"We became more selective. Six months ago, we probably had 67 or 68 children. We really haven't added a lot, and we probably tried to just keep everything equal during that time. We had some children adopted so we replaced them. We kept it more or less equal, not a little bit concerned about an increase, a fast increase with which we needed additional funding, additional sponsors," Ron said.

Help came

Fortunately for the children, help did come, but it wasn't some "white knight" who, with one huge sum, took care of all the foundation's financial problems. Help came in small packages.

Since Day One, when Chosen Children Inc. took under its care 12 orphans in a small, rented house in Las Piñas in 1989, it has always been Lita Fullerton's policy never to rely on any single group here or abroad for support.

"We've always been under the impression that we have to try to do this privately and on our own, and not to depend on the government as many orphanages do because we don't know what will happen if it (government) can't do it," says Ron.

"We don't want to get tied to a large foundation or the church, which can provide the funding, then all of a sudden stop when its funds dry up. We wanted to make sure, this is my wife's way of thinking, that these are Filipino children, this is a Filipino organization, it should be Filipinos who'd take care of these children."

Chosen Children has survived mostly through the support of sponsors. Ron, a past president of the Rotary Club, used his connections to start the ball rolling with the influential set.

As time went on, however, and at P200 a month to sponsor a child, the orphanage was soon getting financial assistance from secretaries, government clerks, teachers—ordinary people with an extraordinary desire to help others.

The orphanage now has over a thousand sponsors and they are the ones who are keeping it alive.

Chosen Children has also set up a special program for its construction needs, which require more funds. For P6,000, a sponsor gets his or her name written on a plaque. For bigger sums, they can have a room or a hall or an entire building named after them. One room has been named after popular movie actress and singer Sharon Cuneta and her husband, lawyer Francis Pangilinan. Fast-food giant Jollibee Corp. has its name on one cottage.

Volunteers have also kept Chosen Children up and running.

Medical schools like Far Eastern University and the Emilio Aguinaldo College, for example, regularly send interns—physical therapists, speech therapists, occupational therapists—to help out with the children's medical treatments.

Waiting for a miracle

One year after Urban Bank shut down, Chosen Children is surviving, but its future and those of 73 orphans under its wing remain uncertain.

Ron is still waiting for a miracle, and hopes to see Urban Bank reopened one day.

For now, he can only hope that the people responsible for the bank's closure—people he knew quite well—has had enough time to pause and think about what they have done.

Ironically, even the people who worked for Urban Bank have their own stories to tell.

Former Urban Bank president Teodoro Borlongan is one of them. He had to send his children away because they were being harassed in school right after Urban Bank shut down. He had to send one as an exchange student to Japan, and he had to pull his boys out of the Ateneo de Manila University because they were figuring in fights with other boys who were taunting them about their father. He had to send one boy to Cagayan de Oro.

Borlongan has been accused of bailing out his relatives and in-laws just two days before Urban Bank went belly up. What he is asking now is that people try to at least scratch the surface before passing judgment on him.

"People would pass judgment, but they would have to determine what kind of character I really have from the very start despite what was made to appear. I do not intend to justify to everyone. Most of my people don't know about the withdrawals. They don't know about my reasons. I don't have to explain to everyone. I certainly would like to say a lot more, but again, I'd like to say them in court *na lang*. Half-stories are falsehoods," he said.

What pain Borlongan more nowadays are the ordeals of his own people whom he felt he had let down.

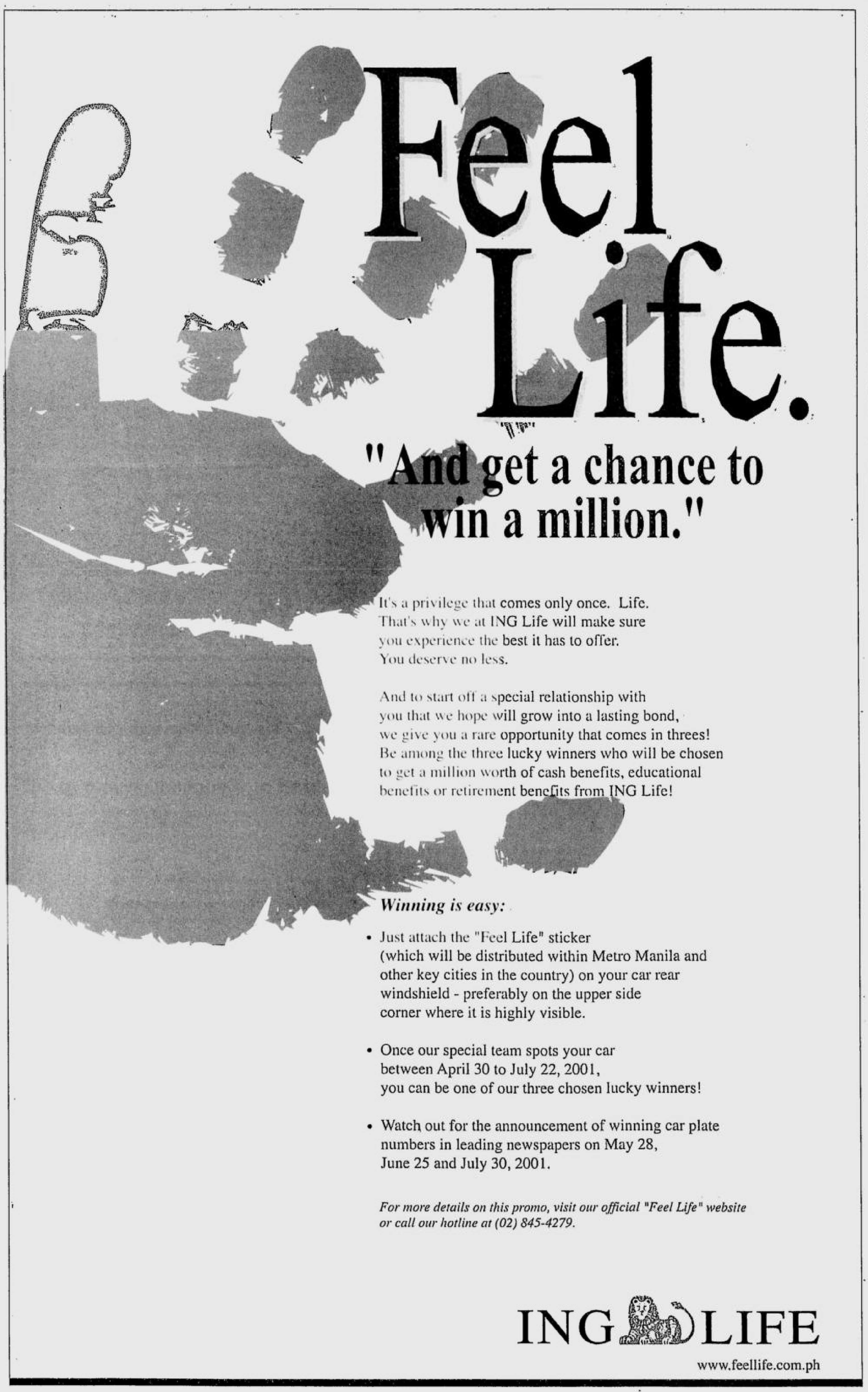
"In May, June, I was really devastated. So many people are pleading with me. I remember one of them was an ex-officer of Urban. She had her money with us, and she pleaded because it was supposed to be her father in the United States who was in a coma. I got that after the bank's closure. I felt so bad about it. On June 13, that was when we submitted the rehabilitation plan to the SEC, I came to the bank early morning and I sent her an e-mail. I told her I was working very hard to re-open Urban and we had this assurance that Urban would re-open. I broke that promise," he said.

Tragedy

Borlongan knows how his story will end, and it is a tragedy for him that it won't be in Urban Bank, the bank he helped build in the last 20 years of his life.

"I don't want to be part of the bank anymore. In banking, everything is based on trust, and I will never get full vindication. Once you don't have trust, it's over. That's what they took away from me."

"I know I will see justice, but I know that in the end, there's nothing for me. I will still fight it out. I will not relent until my last breath. I will make sure that the people who matter will know exactly what happened." ***With a report from Ibon Features***



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Struggling Asia urges rich countries to revive growth

HONOLULU—Asia's struggling developing countries on Thursday called on the world's major economic powers to play their part in boosting the flagging global economy to prevent another regional financial crisis.

At the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank in Hawaii, regional policymakers called on Japan and the United States to boost growth, and said greater regional economic cooperation was essential to help Asia weather the downturn.

"The biggest challenge facing us now is the sharp slowdown in the global economy," said South Korean Finance and Economy Minister Jin Nyum.

"In particular, the global economic slowdown adversely affects the ongoing structural reforms in the Asian countries recovering from financial crisis."

Nyum said it was essential that leading world economies "display decisive leadership and make concerted efforts in implementing forward-looking economic policies that boost domestic demand and stabilize the financial markets."

Chinese Finance Minister Xiang Huaicheng joined the call for developed countries to take the lead in heading off a global economic crisis.

"We call on the developed countries to vigorously adopt appropriate fiscal and monetary policies to stabilize their domestic economy, open the markets to developing countries, increase official development assistance and promote technology transfer so as to create a more favorable external environment for developing countries," he said.

Officials said it was essential that Japan, Asia's biggest economy, took steps to address the problems that have stifled growth for the last decade.

"We look forward to structural reform in Japan leading to a rekindling of growth," said Indian Finance Secretary Ajit Kumar. He said the developing world would be hardest hit by the global economic slowdown unless decisive action was taken.

"Concerted and organized policy efforts at this stage can arrest the degenerative forces from developing into a full-blown crisis." *Reuters*

Boeing picks Chicago

SEATTLE/CHICAGO—Boeing Co. said Thursday it was moving its global headquarters to Chicago from Seattle, ending a scramble among three cities to snare the aerospace giant.

Boeing chair Phil Condit ultimately chose Chicago over Denver and Dallas-Fort Worth after Boeing officials were wined and dined by local politicians, sports stars and corporate elites during recent high-profile tours of the cities.

Company officials did not offer any single reason why Chicago beat out Denver and Dallas-Fort Worth.

"Our decision to move was a strategic business decision. We believe having our world headquarters separate from any one of our major businesses will help us to achieve our goals of growing this company and that's really why we are here today," Condit said at a news conference at Chicago's Midway Airport.

Chicago literally rolled out a red carpet as Boeing executives emerged from their corporate jet to greet Illinois Gov. George Ryan and Chicago Mayor Richard Daley.

"This is an exciting moment for Boeing," Condit said. "We are in the midst of transforming this company. We're building a Boeing for the future." *Reuters*

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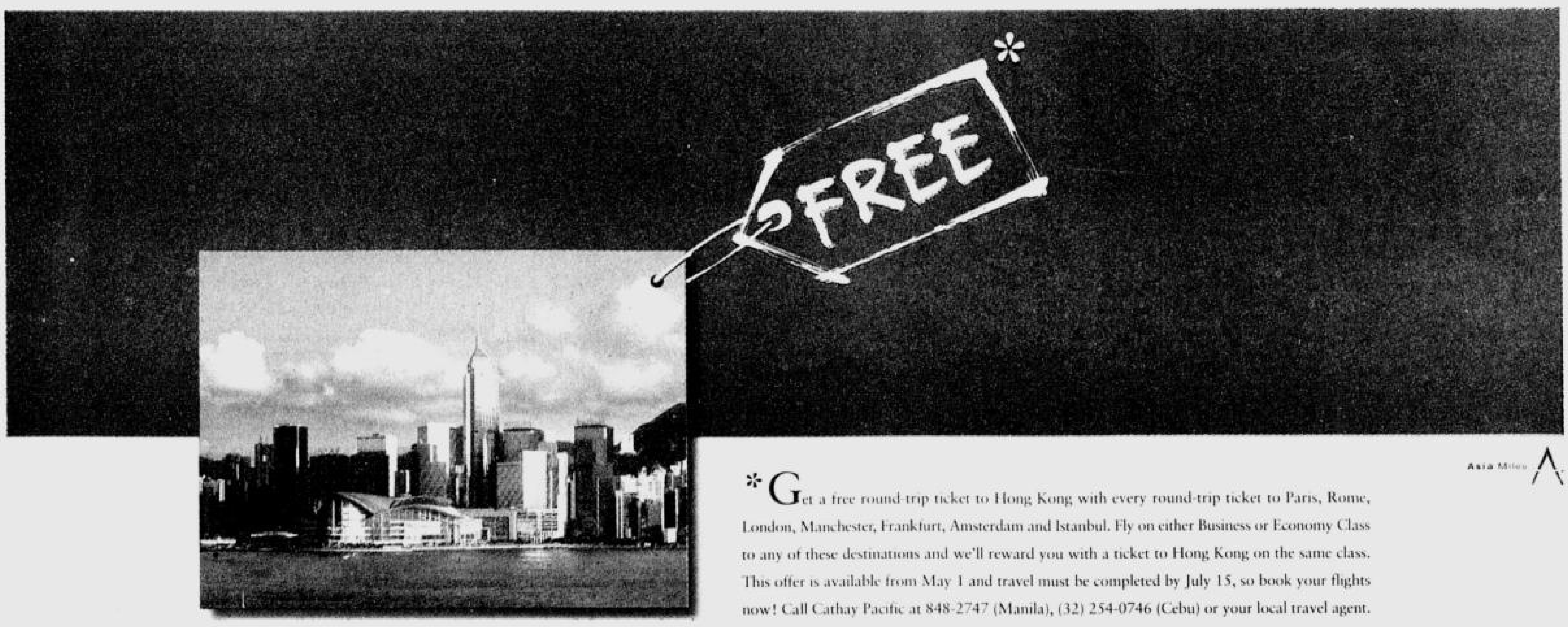

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*"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live,
even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."*
John 11:25-26

(RET.) JUDGE RAFAEL B. HILAO

(RTC Laoang and Pasig)

Peacefully joined his Creator on Friday, May 11, 2001 at the age of 85.

He is survived by his wife **GREGORIA (YOYANG)** and bereaved children and their spouses **LIBERTY & JOHNNY COTANGCO, AGNES & JACK CUSTODIO, RAFAEL, JR & CLARA**; grandchildren **MILISSA & ANTONIO GONZALES, EMERSON & PHEBE COTANGCO, PAMELA ANN, JENNIFER ANN & EDWIN LIM, RAFAEL III, KIM, DENISE, NEYSA, NINO & ERNESTINE**; great-grandchildren **ALYSSA & JOHN, PATRICIA, ROBIN ANNE, LLOYD & LEIGH**.

His remains lie in state at #1 Yujuico Street, Tanay, Rizal.

Interment will be announced later.

Our Beloved "PAPA"

BIENVENIDO "Benny" NORIEGA CORONEL, SR.

of Orion, Bataan

peacefully joined his Creator and his loving wife **Gerty**
on May 11, 2001 at the age of 64.

His children **Lito** and **Luz**, **Lulex** and **Freddie**, **Chi** and **Sol**, **Gaye** and **Toni**, **Bong**, **Mon** and **Marlyn**, **Grace** and **Arnie**, **Rose** and **Jay**, **Jet** and **Tara**; and his grandchildren, relatives and friends, request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart Church, Dao, Makati City.

Interment to be announced later.

Dr. Carmelo Valera Crisologo

Died in the Grace of our Lord on May 9, 2001 at the age 62.

He is survived by his bereaved wife **Joji**; children **Mikael**, **Pia**, **Yaffa**, **Lara**, **Ofir**, **Alex** and **Jake**; mother, brothers and sisters and other relatives.

His remains lie in Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Monday, May 14, 2001, 9:00 a.m. at the Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, following a Christian Service at Mt. Carmel Shrine at 7:30 a.m.

***"I am the resurrection and life. He who believes in Me will live,
even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."***
John 11:25-26

CONCHITA FELICIANO SANTOS

*Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord
on May 10, 2001 at the age of 88.*

Her loving husband **Glicerio** (†); children **Benjie** and **Sandy**, **Tito** and **Baby**; grandchildren **Paul** and **Christine**, **Vincent**, **Patrick**, **Mikko**, **Jamie** and **Treena**, and **Cholo**; sisters **Consolacion**, **Victoria** and **Hermenigilda** (†); brothers **Igmidio** (†) and **Carmelito** (†); sisters-in-law **Elena** and **Annie**; relatives and friends remember her with love and request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 13, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

CRISOSTOMO "TOM" P. PUNZAL

January 27, 1937 - May 9, 2001

Joyfully joined his Savior at the age of 64.

He is survived by his wife **NINA VERANO**; children **JUNIE & DAVID BRAGG, LIZA & RANDY SINGSON, MARV & DENNIS RODRIGUEZ, NINEY & XP CASAMBRE, JP PUNZAL & ALEXIS PAUCO**; grandchildren **DANI, ALEXANDRA, CAMILLE, RANDALL, NICK, PAULO, MARCO, IÑIGO**; mother **AGAPITA PUNZAL**; brothers and sister, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Bulletin Street, West Triangle, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 13, 2001 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

IRENE LIM SISON

of Ilagan, Isabela

who joined the Lord on April 3, 2001

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude
to all those who offered Masses,
prayers and flowers, visited and kept vigil,
joined us in the burial rites, and in one way
or the other condoled with us and showed
love and concern in our bereavement.

MARIO, MICHELLE and
JOJO SISON

EX-MAYOR GUILLERMO ALDANA CAMAGAY

June 25, 1920 - May 2, 2001

His wife NEMIA; children, nephews, nieces, brothers, sisters,
in-laws, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the
pious readers to say a short prayer for the repose of his soul.
The body lies in state at their residence in San Jacinto, Pangasinan.
Necrological services will be on May 16th at 7:00 a.m.
at the Municipal Hall after which a Mass will be held at
the Roman Catholic Church.
Interment will be in the Municipal Cemetery.

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

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Fuji unveils 'One-stop Shop' digital minilab

IN THE LAST DECADE, digital and conventional photography has advanced by leaps and bounds. No wonder then, professional and even novice photographers are having trouble keeping up with the dizzying pace of technological changes in the field.

Too often, photographers spend precious time just looking for the right shop with the right equipment to print pictures that meet their requirements and specifications. This is especially true when using the advanced photo system (APS) formats or digital storage media like floppy/zip disks and CD-Roms. It's equally difficult to find shops that could print transparencies and slides or copy existing photographs using ordinary photo paper.

Responding to the tough demands of today's crop of conventional and digital photographers, Fujifilm–through its local partner YKL Color Laboratories–recently came up with an answer: the Frontier 370 Digital Minilab.

A virtual "one-stop-shop," the Frontier 370 Digital Minilab meets virtually all the printing needs of the amateur to the most discriminating professional photographers. Combining the best of silver halide and digital technologies, the Frontier 370 is capable of printing images captured by conventional 135 and 120 films, from color, black and white negatives to slides and even digital cameras. It can also print computer-manipulated images stored in smart media like CD-ROMs or floppy and zip disks, Compact Flash, IBM Micro Drive, ordinary pictures for reproduction and even images downloaded from the Internet.

Using the revolutionary and state-of-the-art CCD scanning system, a full toolbox of proprietary image-enhancing technologies and a sophisticated laser exposure system, the Frontier 370 achieves remarkable levels of digital image quality.

Unleashing the power of digital technology, the Frontier 370's processing technology make a visible difference in the prints produced by optimizing each image and automatically compensating for less-than-ideal shooting conditions. It allows sharpness adjustments, over and under-exposure corrections, high contrast corrections, black and white or sepia and even backlight and red-eye correction.

Aside from standard sizes, the Frontier 370 could print up to 10x15-inch blow-ups and a variety of appealing specialized print formats which incorporate chosen images into calendars, postcards, greeting cards, print with text and many other exciting formats like packaging prints.

Capable of processing an average of 25 prints per minute, or 1,450 prints of 4R per hour, the Frontier 370 Digital Minilab service is now available in the main office of YKL Color Laboratories in Sto. Domingo Street, Quezon City.

Natural
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rogra Award Ceremony
Preliminary Offer of Employment

TREND MICRO PROGRAMMING WINNERS

Trend Micro, the worldwide leader in Internet content security and a network anti-virus solutions provider, declared the Ateneo de Manila "Endgame" team as champions in the recently concluded "Trend Internet Software" computer-programming contest. Ateneo bested five other teams and went home P1 million richer. The other finalists were "CK" from De La Salle University, "Powerpuff Boys," "Cybercide" and "Rorouni Gopon Katana" from UP Diliman and "Softdev Solutions" from East Asia College of Information Technology. Trend Micro gave away P1.9 million in cash as well as employment opportunities in the company as prizes. Shown awarding the P1-million check are Jeffery Sy, Trend Micro country business development manager (far left) and Steve Chang, founder and chair of Trend Micro (far right) with the "Endgame" team members (from left) Jerome Punzalan, Tiaying Chen, Jose Amilcar Reyes, team leader Cesar Vidal and Sacha Jean Chua.

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GN CEREMO
, 2001

NESTLE UNION NEW CBA

The Management of Nestle Philippines, Inc. (NPI) and the Union of Nestle Workers-Cagayan de Oro Factory (UNWCF) announced the signing of their new Collective Bargaining Agreement covering the period August 1, 2000 to July 31, 2003. NPI chair and CEO J.B. Santos (shown above at left), NPI management panel chair Alex Cabral, and UNWCF VP for external affairs Dexter Agustin led the signing of the CBA in ceremonies held last April at the Xavier Estates Sports and Country Club in Cagayan de Oro City. Under the new CBA, both parties agreed on a wage moratorium for the first year of the CBA period. However, Nestle will grant each regular employee within the CDO bargaining unit a one-time, non-recurring financial assistance amounting to P75,000 upon signing of the CBA. For the second and third years of the CBA, each covered regular employee of the CDO bargaining unit will receive a salary increase of P1,250 per month. Existing benefits were also improved.

Westminster Colleges is 'big brother'

IT WAS 'Big Brother' for Westminster Colleges of the Philippines in Antipolo City.

In an unprecedented move, education majors on the WCP played big brother to day care center pupils of the government-operated City Social Welfare and Development Center. This coincided with the center's Recognition Day where more than 300 pupils marched proudly to receive their certificates of completion.

Jay Comendador coordinated the activities of WCP education majors who participated in the outreach project. The college students took turns decorating the hall and guiding the children throughout the activity. Gifts were also given to outstanding students.

Antipolo City school officials and local government representatives were present at the Recognition Day. Dubbed as "Big Brother Project--Reaching Out, Feeling Proud," the community outreach of the Westminster Colleges of the Philippines reflects the vision of Arlyn Grace Guico, WCP president, for the institution to be an active participant in community undertakings.

"WCP stands committed to the community where it operates. The Big Brother project is simply the start of various activities where the school shall be involved in," beamed Guico.

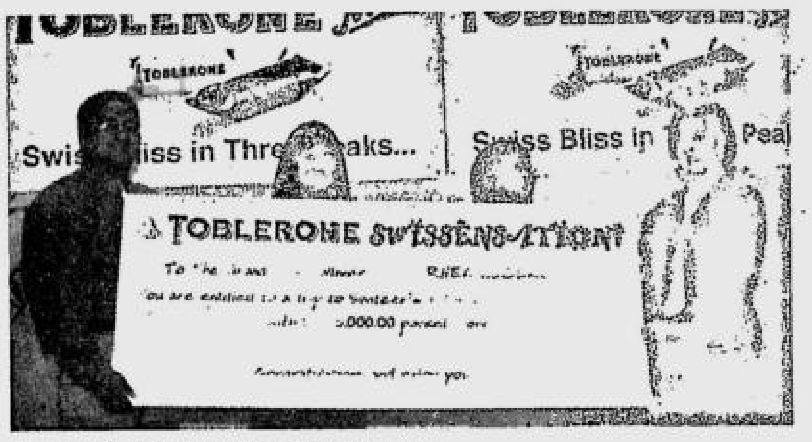
Besides offering Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Secondary Education and Business Administration, Westminster Colleges of the Philippines is the only school offering B.S. Criminology in Antipolo City.

Westminster Colleges of the Philippines is located at 156 M.L. Quezon Ave., Antipolo City.

Scrabble pre-championship games

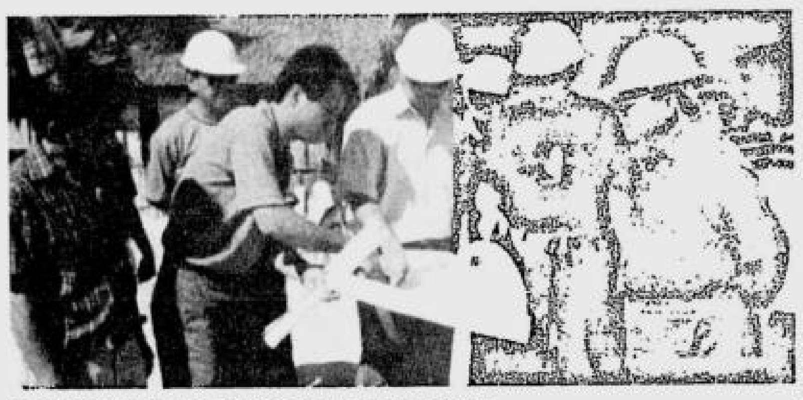
THE COUNTRY'S top Scrabble players will be exhibiting their skills on May 18-20, 1-6 p.m. at the lower ground floor of the Liberty Center's Freedom Plaza along Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City. The event is preparatory to the Philippine Scrabble Championship Games in June. The Scrabble exhibition will coincide with the "Summer Scrabble Fun" for amateur Scrabble aficionados sponsored by Liberty Center, in cooperation with its valued lessees.

Open to all interested Scrabble enthusiasts of every age and level, the "Summer Scrabble Fun" is on a first-come-first-serve basis, with no minimum purchase requirements. Registration is ongoing at the Customer Service desk of the Hardware Depot, one of Liberty Center's newest outlets. For inquiries, call the property management office of Liberty Center at 531-3936, 532-2865, or 531-0839.



'SWISSSENSATION' WINNER

Rhea Lucero from Pasig city is on her way to the land of the Swiss after receiving the grand prize in the 'Swisssensation' raffle of Toblerone, the world's famous chocolate brand recently held at the Kraft Foods International head office in Parañaque City. In photo are (from left) Kraft's market development manager Regi Baylosis, and trade marketing coordinator Kate Caranay awarding an all-expense paid trip for two to Switzerland plus $5,000 pocket money to Eliza Lucero and Rhea Lucero.



DOTC INSPECTS ROMBLON PORT

DOTC Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez recently inspected the ongoing San Agustin Development Project and Carmen Port Development Project in Carmen, Romblon. The San Agustin Port Development Project, with a project amount of P10 million, is for advertisement by the DOTC-Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), while the pre-qualifications statements of contractors vying for Carmen Port Development Project--with an appropriation of P5 million--is still under evaluation by the BAC.

COMPAQ INSPIRES PRESS WITH UGU BIGYAN

Compaq Computer Philippines, Inc. treated members of the press to a day of inspiration and recreation as they hied off to the famous haven of one of the youngest, most creative artists in the country, Ugu Bigyan (center). Everyone tried their hands on pottery making and basked in the comfort of Ugu's nature-inspired hideaway as part of Compaq's new world of "Inspiration Technology" wherein Compaq inspires individuals through the technology they provide, thus making them more instrumental than the tool itself.

Goodyear comes closer to the ideal

ONE of the newest members of the Goodyear Eagle high performance tire family has been "adopted" by several of Asia's highest profile families in the automotive world.

Following extensive testing to evaluate the tire's performance characteristics and ensure it complies with the automotive industry's stringent original equipment platform specifications, Volvo, BMW, Mercedes, Audi, Fiat and Ford all selected Goodyear's Eagle NCT5 as the original equipment tire on several selected vehicle models.

Today, the tire is available to consumers throughout Asia as a replacement tire, ideally suited for demanding performance vehicles.

"Eagle NCTS is an example of Goodyear's latest technology, innovative manufacturing techniques and advanced design," said Hugh Pace, president of Goodyear's Asia region, "all developed under the banner of Goodyear's Trinuum technology."

Trinuum, with "Tri" representing the power of three and "nuum" representing a continuum of tire technology, combines the respective strengths from Goodyear's three global development and technical centers in Japan, Europe and the United States to design the perfect tire for every application, every terrain and every driver.

In the performance tires group, Eagle NCTS is the ideal tire for a variety of reasons, including improved handling on wet and dry roads, longer mileage, minimized noise levels and improved grip and lateral stability.

"No one tire can be all things to all drivers," Pace added, "but the Eagle NCTS comes the closest to achieving that 'ideal' status among performance tires. Essentially, it's a well-rounded performance tire for the way consumers drive."

SAVING 50-YEAR-OLD MAHOGANY TREES

DENR OIC Joemarie D. Gerochi (in white barong) conducts an onsite inspection of the 91 mahogany trees, including 31 "taraw" palm trees, which he ordered be balled and replanted. The trees, lining both sides of Quezon Avenue leading to the Manila Seedling Bank compound in Quezon City, were originally doomed for cutting in connection with the Edsa-Quezon Avenue Interchange Project of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) which was approved during the Ramos' administration. Gerochi instead, ordered a review of the agency's permit and imposed new conditions to save all trees. Joining him during the inspection were (from left) DENR-National Capital Region executive director Corazon Davis and assistant director Amando Dayrit of the DENR-Public Affairs Office.

FGU INSURA CE
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FGU AWARDS SALES DRIVE TOP PRODUCER

FGU Insurance Corporation president Alfonso Salcedo, Jr. awards the FGU Race Champion's Cup to Maxima Diaz, the March topnotcher in FGU's Race 4 Your Rewards program. Diaz scored the highest in terms of percentage increase over the assigned monthly quota, and the number of points earned for the first month of the sales drive. Present during the awarding were (from left) sales and distribution senior vice president Hermie Bereña, bonds senior assistant vice president Priscilla Jimenez and marketing director Herbert Tuason. FGU is the non-life insurance arm of the Ayala Group of Companies and the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

SM SUPER SHOPPING EXPEDITION WINNERS

Erlinda D. Depallo was the first winner of one of the two Ford Expeditions at the recently concluded "Super Shopping Expedition" raffle promotion at the SM Department Store. Shown awarding the symbolical key is Shoemart vice president for marketing communications group Eduardo C. Ponce (center) and Shoemart ad and promo account manager Kilet Cheng (right). The promotion second winner was Father Emmanuel Alparce.

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VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN BY AYALA

BPI insurance companies Ayala Life, FGU, Ayala Plans and Ayala Health Care recently sponsored a Voter's Education Campaign by Namfrel to its business partners. Its main objectives were to help the Filipino voter in identifying the right candidates, the significance of his or her vote and to emphasize the importance of responsible voting and its relevance to the future of the country. Shown in photo are (from left) Lemm Fajardo, Ayala Plans' division head; Oscar Gariando, Ayala Life regional manager for South Manila; Telibert Laoc, Namfrel executive director; Jojo Gutierrez, Ayala Health marketing head and Herbet Tuason, FGU marketing director.

SCIENCE /HEALTH

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

STATE OF RP HEALTH

1 dies of preventable disease every minute

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

THE PHILIPPINES today is a throwback to the era when people were dying of preventable and curable diseases.

Tuberculosis, diarrhea, bronchitis, influenza and pneumonia are the top causes of illnesses. Noncommunicable diseases are also on the rise despite cutting-edge technologies in medical science.

This was how doctors and other health workers described the local health situation during a recent forum at the Philippine Heart Center.

They said the problem was compounded by two more factors: expensive health care (eight out of 10 Filipinos could not afford their own health care) and a small government budget allocation for health (only 2.2 percent of the budget for 2000).

The 2001 Philippine health situationer of the Council for Health and Development (CHD) indicated that 132 Filipinos die of tuberculosis every day and 39 percent of Filipino children are afflicted with TB.

Figures from the Philippine Heart Association showed that every minute, nine Filipinos die of cardiovascular illnesses and every nine minutes, a child below the age of 15 dies of heart disease.

The CHD added that every hour, four Filipinos die of cancer while the Philippine General Hospital said there are 71,526 new cases of cancer annually.

Lack of medicine

"One month's supply of medicines in district and provincial government hospitals can only last two weeks, while the quarterly supply of medicines is good for only a month. For a tuberculosis case, for instance, that needs six months of continuous supply of medicine, there's a possibility that the bacteria becomes drug-resistant because of the erratic medicine supply," said Dr. Mary Christine Castro, executive director of the Community Medicine Development Foundation.

Castro added that the government had been stubbornly promoting the privatization of health care so it could allot a smaller budget for health, while debt servicing continues to get the lion's share of the country's budget. She said the 2000 national budget allocated 40 percent for debt servicing, 20 percent for the military but just two percent for health.

The Department of Health's head executive assistant to the secretary, Dr. Conki Quizon, meanwhile appealed to various sectors and civil society groups to help the DOH lobby for the prioritization of health. She said that expenditure for health should at least be 5 percent of the total budget.

"Sadly, 2 percent is very low but that doesn't mean that the people are not getting health services anymore. It just means that the biggest percentage of health services come out of the pockets of the people and not from the government. That's where inequality takes place," she said.

Health concerns

The health sector also called for:

- A higher budget for health care not be less than 5 percent of the gross national product.
- The removal of revenue enhancement programs or the user fee scheme and cost recovery on government hospitals.
- Abolition of the DOH Health Sector Reform Agenda because this passes on to the people the responsibility of the government in shouldering health care services.
- Giving more importance to health research that is specifically oriented for Filipino patients. Health science education is irrelevant to the needs of the Filipino people. Health science courses are patterned after the western model.

The CHD added that the government is spending taxpayers' money and taking more foreign loans to upgrade and modernize public hospitals but this does not serve the needy patients. They feared that the hospitals would ultimately become business ventures and corporations run by foreign and local investors.

"What used to be public is becoming private and it is leaning toward those who can afford to pay. The health sector reform agenda of the government is nothing but a modernization of hospitals, making them technologically equipped, but the essential public health care and even emergency health services would be for sale," stressed the CHD.

Capital outlay

Quizon, meanwhile, said that the DOH has had no capital outlay in the past five years.

"If you look at some of our hospitals, they are already decrepit. It's not really true that we are prioritizing infrastructure over service. A greater percentage of the budget still goes to services," she said.

The DOH, said Quizon, is bent on providing quality health care, accessibility and affordability.

Parallel importation is one strategy the DOH is pursuing to help bring down the cost of drugs. Quizon said the second batch of drugs to be imported—worth P20 million—would be sold in 30 DOH hospitals.

She said the DOH has earned the ire of the pharmaceutical industry and "the DOH has to strike a balance somewhere to make health care accessible and affordable to the poor."

The DOH, added Quizon, is pursuing a health financing scheme, or a socialized hospital insurance. The DOH has coordinated with local government units to identify the poorest residents and help defray their cost of health care.

Two more priorities, Quizon said, are health care for women and children and the tuberculosis program.

Fake drugs still a nuisance

COUNTERFEIT drugs continue to be a problem in the Philippines.

Just when the public was feeling complacent about the safety of the drugs they took, reports of counterfeit drugs flooding the market started coming in again.

A few months ago, the Mindanao Daily Mirror published a report that three women, who were selling counterfeit Co-Amoxiclav to the St. John Hospital in Toril, Davao City, were arrested. Hospital owner, Dr. Ramanito Pilay, became suspicious of the drug after a patient's condition deteriorated after he took the medicine.

Pilay submitted the medicine to the Department of Health (DOH) for testing. The DOH later reported that the medicine did not contain any Amoxicillin and Clavulanic acid, which should be present in Co-Amoxiclav.

The three women were charged with estafa and violation of Republic Act 8203, the special law on counterfeit drugs, according to National Bureau of Investigation Tacloban City director Salvador Ranin. Jars of Co-Amoxiclav capsules were confiscated during the raid.

The Medical Mission Hospital in Davao City also reported that a patient died after he took counterfeit Co-Amoxiclav.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. immediately filed a resolution urging the Senate committee on health and other relevant committees to conduct an investigation into the reported proliferation of counterfeit drugs and medicine. Magsaysay noted that the three women who were arrested were from Luzon, making it highly probable that the fake medicines were also being circulated in Metro Manila.

Cheap medicines

NBI's Ranin warned the public against buying low-priced antibiotics. Co-Amoxiclav is currently sold at P84.70 for a 625-mg capsule and P64.75 for a 375-mg capsule. The fake medicine was being sold in Davao City at P20.

According to former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez, seven out of 10 drugstores in Luzon and Visayas were found selling fake and adulterated medicines. Romualdez made this revelation after the Bureau of Food and Drugs conducted raids in Pampanga, Bulacan, Laguna and Batangas last year. A similar operation was conducted in the Visayas. Some of the drug stores were found to be operating without permit or a licensed pharmacist and were selling physician's samples.

"Every day people die because of counterfeit drugs," said Dr. Idrissou Abdoulaye, senior official at the Ministry of Health of Benin, during the May 2000 session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva. "How many? We'll never know. But they keep buying these drugs because they're cheaper."

Sophisticated operations

Countries with weakly regulated pharmaceutical markets suffer most. The World Health Assembly revealed that today's counterfeit drug syndicates are running highly sophisticated operations taking advantage of cross-border loopholes, while supplies, production, shipping, relabeling, financing and distribution are handled in different countries.

But compared to other member-states of the World Health Organization, the Philippines was said to be faring better.

When the special law on counterfeit drugs came into force in 1996, the law not only covered random sampling and monitoring of drug quality in pharmacies and hospitals but also provided for heavy penalties for offenders: from six months to life imprisonment and a fine of P 100,000 to P 500,000.

Hope for mathematics learning

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-

I NORMALLY receive queries from readers, or complaints from them about the difficulty of mathematics, and consequently, their abhorrence or fear of the subject. Aside from answers to puzzles, I rarely get to read something positive about math. To my delight, I received this e-mail recently from Myrnia Dizon [mrdizon@home.com], which is worth sharing with everyone.

I would like to add some thoughts to your recent article on the mathematics/humanities interface (Feb. 10, 2001). I am a college professor here in Michigan, teaching social sciences to mostly engineering students. To get techies interested in the study of people, I emphasize the scientific and mathematical approach to the study of human behavior. Students get into stuff like the math behind what is pleasing to our senses—rhythm, sound, tune, chords, volume, visuals (rule of thirds), color combinations, patterns, movement, pace, etc. They also eat up statistics when we use them to analyze trends, current issues, economic conditions.

A friend just concluded a study of math aversion in this country (it is maybe more widespread here in the United States) and found that the main reason for this is how math is taught in the grade and secondary schools (surprise, surprise). Firstly, few math teachers in our public schools here are trained and qualified to teach math. Many don't know math, much less how to teach it. The US therefore ranks at the bottom of the heap among industrialized countries when it comes to math and science.

The irony of this is that there are a lot of great programs based on solid research that help young people understand the crucial role of math in understanding themselves and the world. My school developed an integrated math program where we have taken high school students identified as math incompetents and in two years having them get A's in calculus. It is integrated because we took all the different subjects (algebra, trigonometry, geometry, calculus) and organized them into 40 computerized self-instruction tutorials. The modules are all interlinked, with each module leading to the next so that math becomes a unified system (where before, courses were taught in a fragmented way). The modules also use worksite-based problems developed with the help of engineers from Ford, General Motors and Chrysler. Students also have individual and small group tutorials (no lecture classes).

We then build on these core math competencies and apply them to other disciplines. I do it in the social sciences where I teach a combined sociology/psychology class and a Global Cultures class. A humanities professor is teaching an "Arts at Work" class using the same approach, focusing on the interplay of human expression and technology, science and math. The same things are being done with economics, political science, etc. While there is so much more development and assessment needed, we are pretty confident there is something exciting happening here.

I am hoping to go back to the Philippines later this year and would be happy to share with anyone interested these ideas and experience.

Interested readers can get in touch with Ms Dizon at the e-mail address given above.

* * *

Karen Maggay [red3sha@yahoo.com] has this request.

Ciao! I am from Rome, Italy and I often go to your column for some "brain exercises." I really envy you, because I'm poor at math, while you're so blessed.

I would just like to ask some things. Can you help me find the meanings of these acronyms: RA, MA, VA, RC and Overall GSA. These are abbreviations from (obsolete) NCEE result cards. I need their corresponding meanings for the Italian translation of my NCEE. I am planning to finish my studies here, but I have to furnish the school's administration here with my translated school records. Nobody else here knows the meaning of these letters and neither do I. It will really be a great help for me if you could give me a hand with this. Thank you and more power.

As for me, I am envious that you are in Rome. I had the fortune of visiting Italy a decade ago (on a tour) and I loved Rome! Also, my math skills are not inborn, but rather a fruit of patience, perseverance and hard work.

I am surprised that you did not call the administration of your old school (here in the Philippines) for the meanings of the acronyms. I am sure they would have been able to help you out. Anyway, RA stands for Reading Ability, MA for Mathematical Ability, VA for Verbal Ability, and RC for Reading Comprehension. I am not too sure about Overall GSA—most likely, it stands for Overall Grade Scholastic (or School) Average. However, for translation purposes, the meaning of GSA should be clear.

Good luck with your studies, and make us Filipinos proud in Italy!

* * *

Send your queries and comments to me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail me at queena@math sci. math.admu.edu.ph.

SCISCOPE

Diabetes, body fat symposium

THE PUBLIC can understand, in simple terms, what diabetes and body fat are, how deadly both can be and what alternatives to medications are available (those that work and those worthless ones). To unfold the mystery, Health From Earth Corp. will be conducting a straight-to-the-point educational public lecture focusing on the ability of certain foods to eliminate or prevent diabetes. And for the first time, a relationship, and a missing link to elimination of body-fat and diabetes will be revealed. An overwhelming number of medical trials, books and research papers will be available for review during the symposium to be held at Horizon Edsa Hotel, corner Pioneer and Boni Avenue, on May 19. While attendance is by reservation only, few free seats are still available by calling Health From Earth Corp hotline at (02) 660-2290. You may e-mail healthph @eudoramail.com.

International expert on infectious disease

THE PHILIPPINE College of Physicians and Westmont Pharmaceuticals will jointly sponsor a series of symposiums with Dr. Ethan Rubinstein, professor of internal medicine at Tel Aviv University and head of infectious disease unit at the Chaim Sheba Medical Center in Israel. Dr. Rubinstein will discuss the topic "Quinolones are not all the same: Different safety profiles for specific compounds" on May 9 at the Mariott Hotel in Cebu, May 10 at the Philippine International Convention Center, and May 11 at the Concorde Hotel in Baguio.

The case of the choking paralysis

BY RAFAEL CASTILLO, MD

MEDICAL FILES

LAST April 9, 2001, Pyke sent a letter to this column. He wrote, "To date, my speech is unintelligible. I find extreme difficulty swallowing so that all my food are blended and I easily choke even with my own saliva, which is sticky and profuse. Both my hands can hardly be lifted and I am composing this letter on the computer keyboard standing, using my right thumb, assisted by my left hand and with the power of gravity, press on every letter. My legs have likewise shown degeneration and I walk with a staggering gait. I have terrible pain in my neck bones and my whole back. Getting up from bed is painfully difficult and I have to be assisted."

It took Pyke two hours to type this short letter.

Pyke used to live a comfortable middle-class life. He had a good job, a happy supportive family, and a nice home in San Pedro, Laguna. Middle of last year, he had a slight difficulty of swallowing which was initially dismissed as just due to some benign soreness of the throat and upper esophagus. Soon after however, he developed a slurring of the speech, which was initially mild such that he could still communicate without difficulty. This was followed by weakness of the upper extremities.

Nerve, muscle disorder

He was referred to a brain and nerve specialist (neurologist) at the Santo Tomas University Hospital. A battery of tests were done and it confirmed that Pyke had a relatively rare progressively disabling type of nerve and muscle disorder. He was diagnosed to have amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, Motor Neuron Disease, or Charcot's Disease, is essentially a muscle and nerve disease. It affects primarily the nerves that supply all voluntary muscles. Identified in 1874 by a French doctor named Charcot, ALS is one of the most devastating diagnoses a doctor can tell his patient.

No proven cure

To this date, there is no proven cure and no known medical treatment that could alter the course of this disease. Researchers however are evaluating some drugs, which have been shown by preliminary studies to extend the survival of some ALS patients. Riluzole (Rilutek), as well as several other drugs are currently being investigated.

As in Pyke's case, ALS progressively affects the muscles of the arms, legs, torso, face, tongue, such that speech, swallowing, and eventually, breathing are severely affected. In some cases, it may also affect emotion, resulting in periods of inappropriate or exaggerated emotional responses. If it's any consolation to ALS patients, it does not affect mental function or intelligence, sensation such as sense of touch, taste, smell, hearing, sight, eye movement, involuntary muscles of the heart, bowel, bladder and sexual function.

Two forms

The two currently identified forms of ALS are "Sporadic" and "Familial." The most common type is "Sporadic ALS," accounting for over 90 percent of the cases of ALS. The cause is unknown and may affect anyone at random. "Familial ALS" accounts for the remaining cases (less than 10 percent) and is caused by inheriting a dominant gene from one parent. A family history of ALS among blood relatives is noted in such cases and there is also a 50 percent chance of the affected person passing it on to their children. If neither parent nor other blood relatives have ALS, this is most likely a sporadic type of ALS and the chances of its appearance in subsequent generation are nil.

At present, there is no blood or genetic screening test to detect "the ALS gene" for all familial forms of ALS, but, there is a test for the chromosome 21 defect. However, only approximately 20 percent of the people who have familial ALS have this defect. These studies are designed more for research purposes, and aren't yet available for general testing in the clinical setting.

Very uncommon disease

ALS is a very uncommon disease, affecting about 1 per 100,000 each year. It more often affects people over 40 years of age, men slightly more than women. Respiratory complications are the usual terminal complications and cause of death for most patients. Survival time and the course of the disease vary widely and depend on various factors.

Based on survival reports in the literature, ALS has an average survival time of 3 to 5 years. Despite the gloomy prognosis, there are however some good news for ALS patients. Some cases of patients surviving more than 15 years have also been reported. Generally, about 20 percent of those affected live past 5 years. Survival statistics are averages based on thousands of people and that doesn't tell how individual patients will really fare.

Every individual's course is different. There are also documented cases of spontaneous remission and long-term ALS survivors. With the availability of gastrostomy feeding tubes, home ventilators and other modern assist devices, not only the length of survival, but the quality of life can be extended. Many ALS experts believe that the patient's state of mind has a significant influence over survival time.

Motor nerves

To understand the disease process, one should know that there are two types of motor nerves that supply voluntary muscles and both are affected in ALS. The first type is called Upper Motor Neurons (UMNs). These UMNs begin in the brain and extend into the spinal cord. When these nerves are affected, the result is spasticity, weakness and overreactive reflexes.

The second type is called Lower Motor Neurons (LMNs). These begin where UMNs end (in the Anterior Horn Cell region of the spinal cord), and each travels to a specific muscle. When these are affected, the result is marked weakness leading to paralysis, muscle wasting and diminished to lost reflexes. As these nerves become involved, ALS patients develop muscle fasciculations. When symptoms begin in the arms or legs it may be referred to as "Limb Onset ALS."

There is a special subset of nerves that come directly from the brainstem and control specialized functions like speech and swallowing. When symptoms arise from these nerves they may be referred to as "Bulbar" symptoms. Bulbar is a traditional term for the brainstem.

Diagnosis

A diagnosis of ALS is made clinically such that no single test can prove the diagnosis. Instead, it requires a thorough exam and many tests, sometimes over a period of weeks, all of which need to be interpreted by an experienced neurologist in order to confirm the diagnosis.

A doctor suspects ALS in his patient when he develops progressive muscle weakness without loss of sensation. Laboratory examinations help rule out other causes of weakness. Electromyography or EMG, which measures the electrical activity of muscles, helps determine whether the problem is in the muscles or nerves. Laboratory tests however can't determine which of the possible nerve diseases is causing the problem. A doctor makes the diagnosis by considering which parts of the body are affected, what symptoms appeared first, and how the symptoms changed over time.

Pyke had big dreams for himself and his family. He realizes that these dreams will no longer be possible. But he is not about to give up. He still maintains his hope that one of these days, someone will announce a breakthrough drug in the treatment of ALS.

Simple dreams

No matter how excruciatingly difficult an activity typing a short letter might be, he continues to write to organizations such as the Philippine Neurologic Association and the ALS Association of the Philippines, hoping to get information on new findings, or at least an acknowledgment of his letter with some reassuring words. He is still eagerly awaiting even just a short letter from them.

Pyke has scaled down his dreams to very simple ones including getting a reply from the people and organizations he writes to. Every day, he staggers to their gate at 85 GSIS-Holiday Hills Village, San Pedro, Laguna, to check if the mailman had dropped a letter for him. A short letter with a few reassuring words gives him a lot of comfort. It's already one of his small dreams fulfilled.

(Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. Mail comments or inquiries to Room 601, Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors' Hospital, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila , or e-mail raffymd@i-manila. com. ph.)

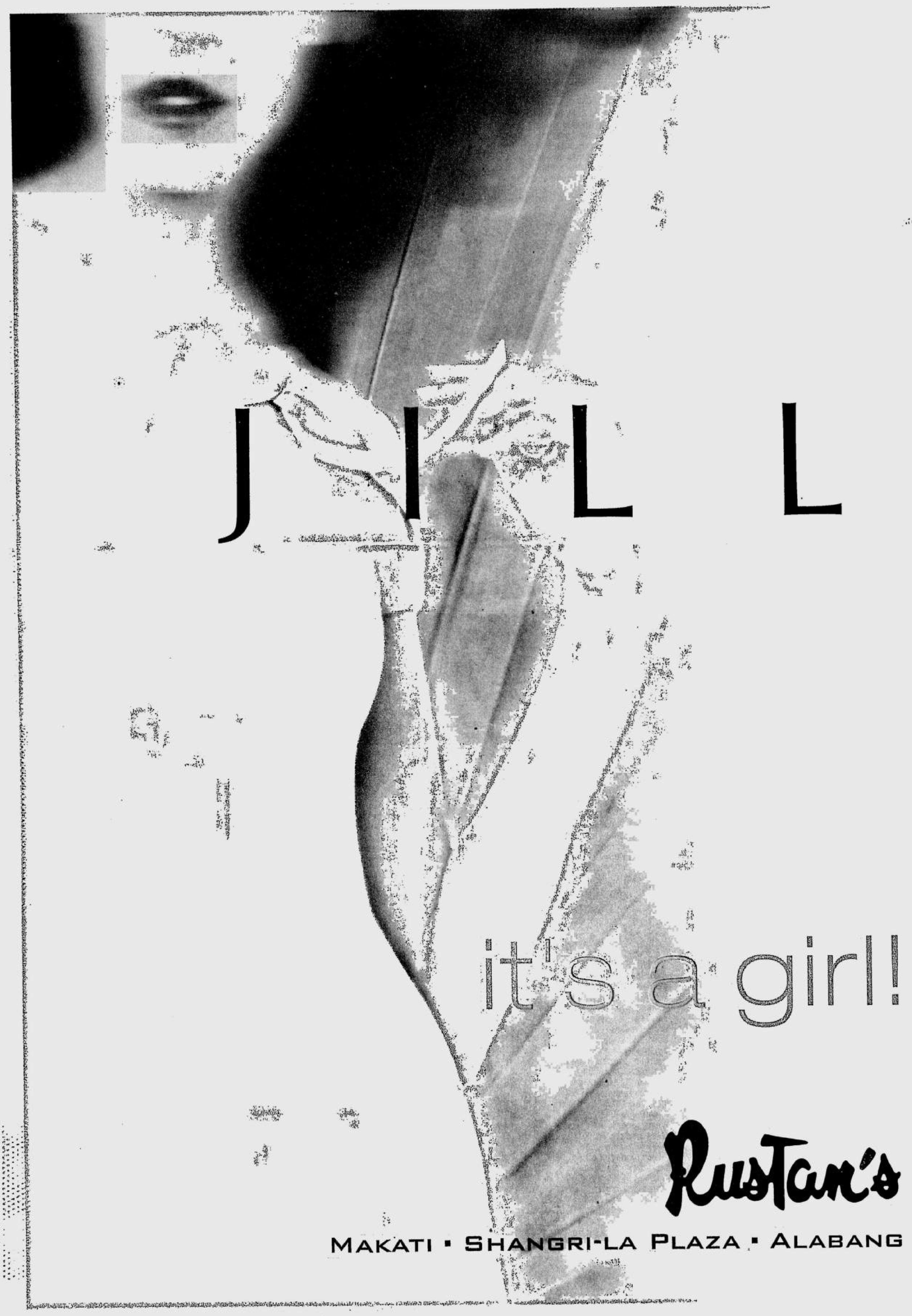
ANNIE CARMONA, Marketing Consultant

all about *élan*

[éla] flair, distinction, class

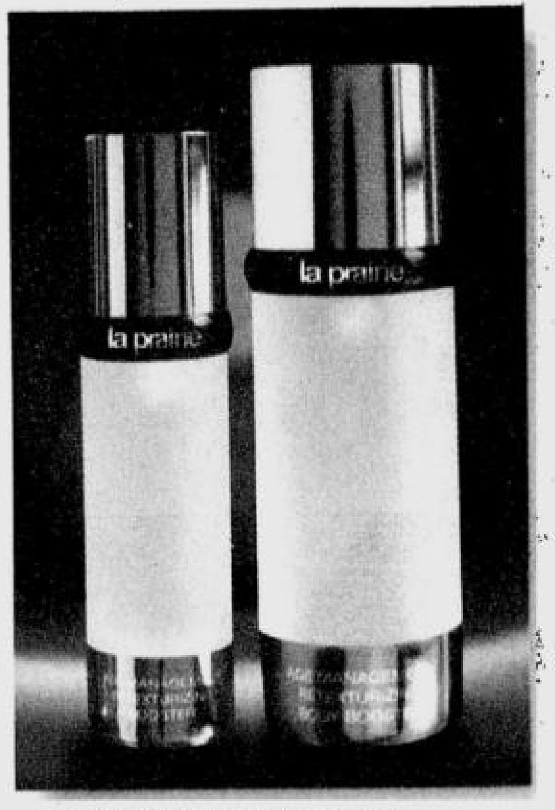
HOWARD BORJA, Art Director

CONCHITINA SEVILLA-BERNARDO, Editor


JILL
it's a girl!
Rustan's
MAKATI • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA • ALABANG

Gift Ideas for Mother

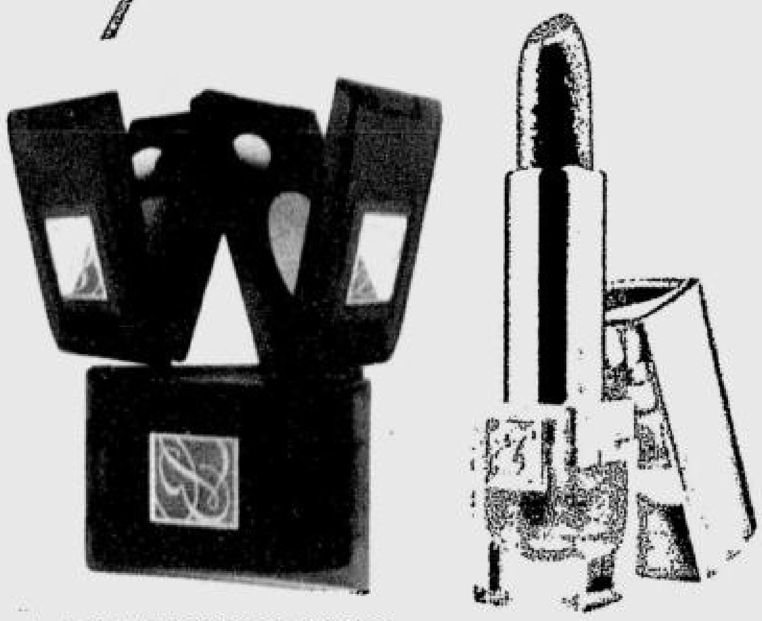
RAN out of fancy ideas for Mother's Day? Want something new and different to show you mother how important she is in your life? From Rustan's, here are some unique options for that perfect Mother's Day gifts.



▲ **MOTHER'S BEAUTY BOOSTER**
A real boost to your mother's beauty regimen is La Prairie's newest body care product: the Age Management Retexturizing Body Booster. The Body Booster fights the effects of aging by toning and moisturizing the skin.

THE ACTIVE MOM'S CARRYALL ▶
Mothers on the go will appreciate a Boblbee. The hip and modern accessory combines functionality with daring designs and advanced ergonomics. Used as a backpack, it allows load to be evenly distributed while slung over the shoulders. It becomes stylish and chic fashion statement.

▲ **MAISON PATOU FOR MOTHER**
Give your mother only the best. Choose a perfume from Maison Patou, one of the oldest French fragrance houses. Un Amour de Patou is an exquisite confection of white flowers, which include osmanthus, ilang-ilang and privet flowers.



▲ **MOMMY'S SUMMER COLORS**
Complement your mother's summer fashion with up-to-the minute make-up from Estee Lauder. This summer, the House of Lauder features Sheer Innocence, a cosmetic line that reflects the frilly, romantic silhouette of the season. The Sheer Innocence line consists of the Spotlight Skin Tone Perfector, an opalescent lotion that evens out skin tone and hides spot discoloration, which also serves as a makeup base.

▼ **EVERY MOTHER LOVES CHANEL**
The Chanel No. 5 Bath Oil creates a sense of well-being that also moisturizes the skin. The Sheer Moisture Mist combines the intensity of the No. 5 fragrance with the magical sensation of a soft, fluid emulsion.

◀ **PAMPER YOUR MOTHER'S FEET**
Luxurious summer sandals from Pedro Garcia, a Spanish ladies footwear company, boasts of sleek designs embellished by ornaments in mother of pearl and carabao horn. The Pedro Garcia 2001 Summer Collection features feminine lines that show strict attention to detail. Wispy sandals are given an edge with heels inlayed with tiny pieces of mother of pearl that have been polished by hand and coated with resin. Other designs use carabao horn as the pair's point of interest.

◀ **MOTHER'S TREAT**
Treat your mother to an Essenses experience. Choose from any of the Essenses massage and facial programs. The Essenses Total Body Alleviation and Aromatic Beauty Touch Treatments are suitable for tired skin and general stress.

All About Manners

BY CONCHITINA SEVILLA BERNARDO

WHILE occasional showers, signaling the coming of the rainy season is almost upon us, the summer season continues. Outings and fun with mom at the beach this remaining days of summer might be just the thing to keep the family closely knit and letting mom know how special she is.

From Etta de los Reyes:

Q: Is there any etiquette regarding beaches and resorts that you can share with us? We are three families that are planning a Mother's Day weekend at a beach resort in Palawan. We want to be sure that everything is done right and that the families remain friends. Any suggestions you might have would be much appreciated.

A: If this is a group outing, my first suggestion is that there be a designated treasurer. His/her duty is to collect the same amount from everyone and that the expenses be shared equally by all. Receipts should be compiled and an accounting must be made. So the responsibility does not fall on just one person. Rotate everyday and you will all have fun equally.

Respect each other's space. Sometimes, one may want to be alone to see the sun set or just read a book.

Most people do not appreciate being dunked into the sea. Do not take liberties like this unless you are sure that the person is amenable to this.

Be sure that you have settled all financial obligations that pertain to you. This is important for preserving camaraderie and friendship.

From Lin Daquila:

Q: What do the SP 15, 30 40 mean in sunblocks?

A: They only mean that you have approximately 15, 30 or 40-minutes protection from the sun under direct exposure. Do not ever believe that you are totally protected from UV rays. There will always be some degree of burning. Remember that excessive exposure to the sun causes photo damaging, and premature aging. Do not lay out in the sun for hours.

From Rey:

Q: What can you say about people who litter the beaches? Are we authorized to call their attention?

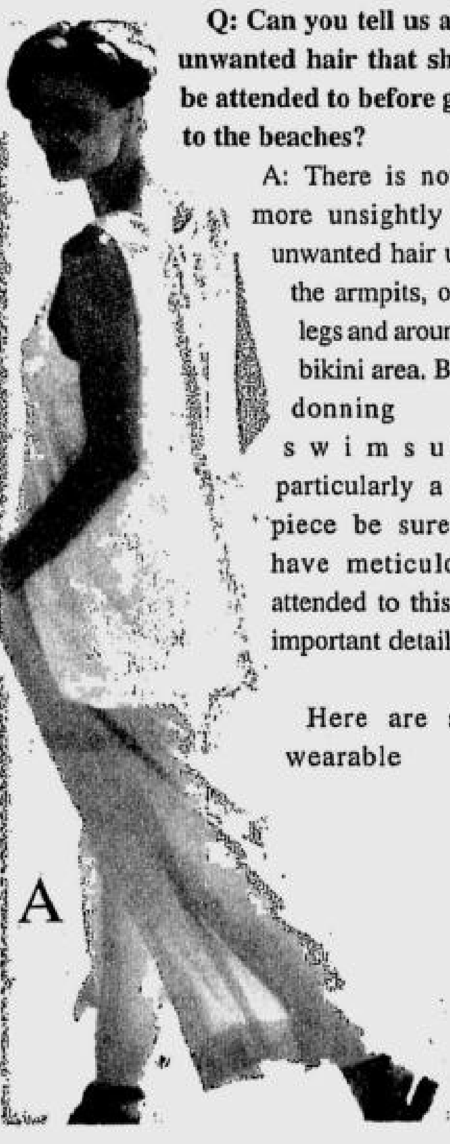
A: Actually, I would tread easy. Culturally, we do not take too kindly to having our attention called publicly. I would pick up the can that he has thrown while he can still see me and throw it in the receptacle. Hopefully, this will shame him and he gets the message. I would also ask the beach wardens, who have the authority to tell people not to litter.

From Minnie of Pasay:

Q: Can you tell us about unwanted hair that should be attended to before going to the beaches?

A: There is nothing more unsightly than unwanted hair under the armpits, on the legs and around the bikini area. Before donning a swimsuit, particularly a two-piece be sure you have meticulously attended to this very important detail.

Here are some wearable and comfortable beach wear that will make you look chic and casual in any resort or club, or anywhere that you may choose to spend Mother's Day.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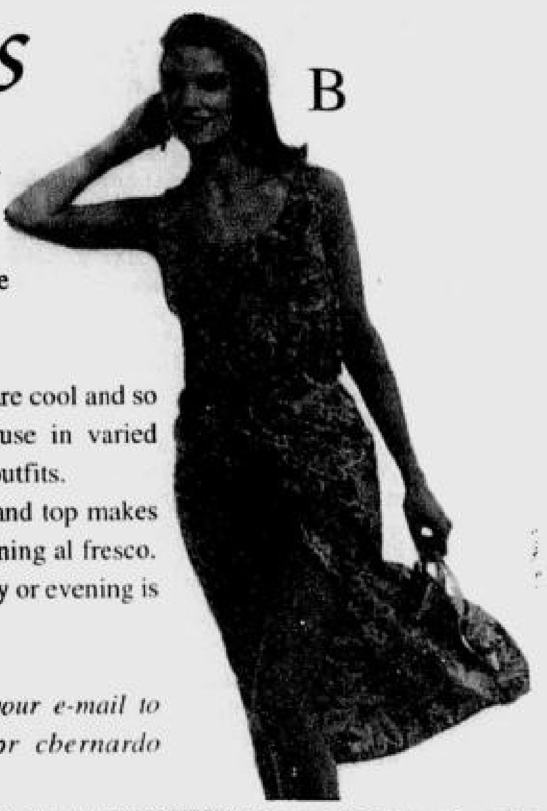
B

C

A. Loose pure cotton pants are cool and so comfortable. Use a loose blouse in varied shades and you have multiple outfits.

B. A two piece piqué skirt and top makes an elegant outfit for evening dining al fresco.

C. A sarong on a summer day or evening is always a huge success.

(Please continue to send your e-mail to conchitina@pacific.net.ph or cbernardo @inquirer. com.ph)

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(infront Jollibee)

MAY 9 - 15
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Upper Ground Floor
(Delifrance Side)

JUNE 6 - 12
SM City NorthEdsa (main)
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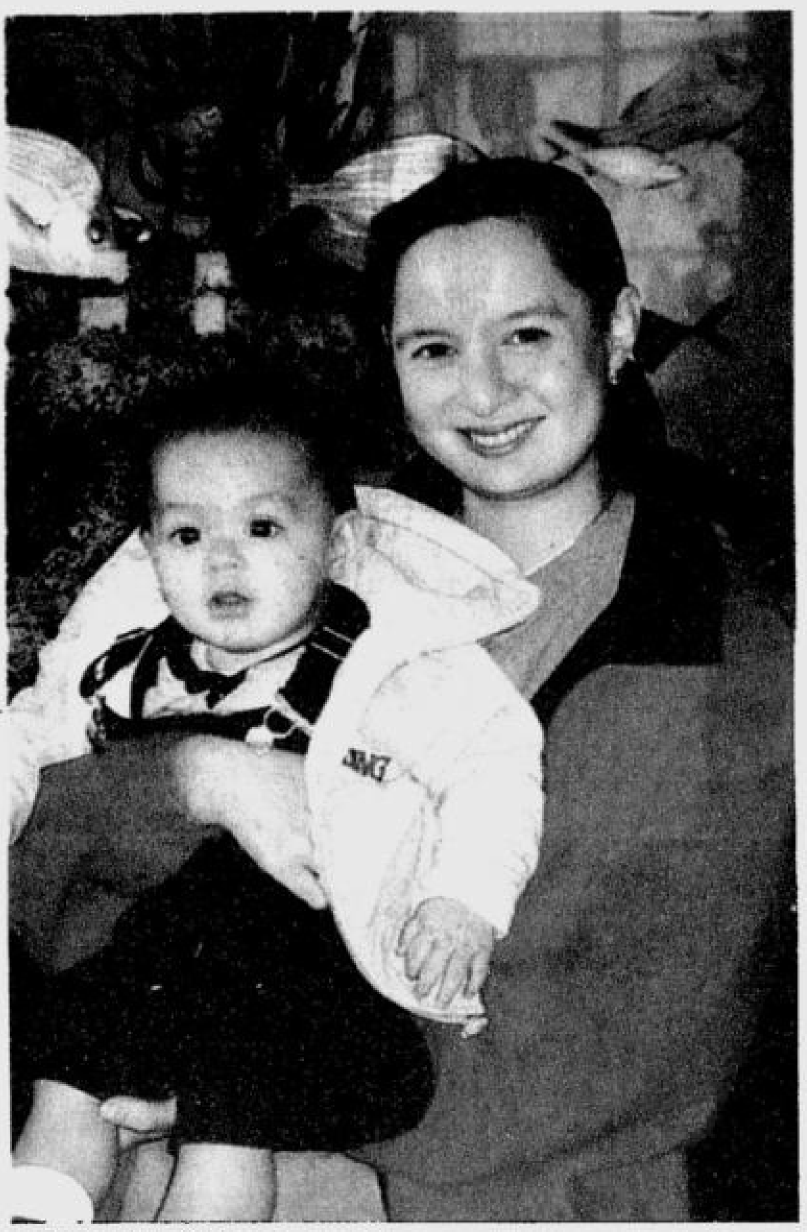
2 Moms



STEFFI with son Jaime

One Big Adventure

BY RISSA SANCHEZ MURGA

SINCE I'm a working mom, I make it a point to go on trips together with **Miguel** for extended periods. This gives us a chance for "super bonding" where there are no *yayas* and no help—just Miguel and me.

In order to achieve an enjoyable vacation, a lot of cooperation and teamwork is necessary between the two of us. In short, it's one big adventure! We discover new things together that open up his mind, widen his outlook and build his confidence. Seeing new places and meeting different types of people is something **Miguel** loves.

As a mother, I find so much joy in seeing him so wide-eyed with every new experience and in my being able to share such a wonderful feeling with him. The happiness and contentment in his face knowing that we are together in this adventure is indescribable.

At five years old, **Miguel** has already been to the United States three times, Canada, HongKong, Palawan and Boracay. He is looking forward to his next trip and this time he would like to share it with his one year old sister, **Isabella. Miguel** will be entering the Ateneo as a prep student this June.

*(**Rissa,** is vice president for the Private Bank Division of Citibank.)*

Our Little Miracle

BY STEFFI DEL ROSARIO INOCENTES

I TRULY believe that **Jaime** is God's gift to my husband and I. Before he came into our lives on October 10, 2000, we had prayed so hard for a child. I had miscarried six months after our marriage in 1998. I had gone to several doctors before that and they had all told me that I mayhave a difficult time conceiving.

When my father was hospitalized in February last year, former **President Corazon Aquino** loaned him a rosary which was given to her by **Sister Lucia,** one of the visionaries of our Lady of Fatima. The rosary was said to have been very powerful and was blessed by Our Lady of Fatima. My husband and I immediately went to the chapel and prayed.

One day after that, I woke up feeling a little sick, so I decided to take the pregnancy test. I was so surprised to see the results, I cried. It was positive! I immediately shared the news with my husband and we called our families right away. They were all happy to hear the good news.

When **Jaime** was born on Oct. 10, 2000, he was in perfect health, weighing 7.7 pounds. My husband and I were so excited to see him and hold "God's precious gift" in our arms. Now, at seven months old, **Jaime** is such a cheerful and friendly baby. He smiles at everyone he sees and continues to fill our hearts with joy.

I am enjoying my new role as a mother and devote most of my time to my little boy. From the moment he wakes up, we begin the day by reading. I feed him, play with him, and give him a bath which I love to do because when I rum the washcloth over him, he gets tickled and giggles. I then put him to bed for a nap. For the rest of the day, we play and watch educational videos and sometimes go to the park together. He loves my version of "Itsy Bitsy Spider" because he can't wait for the song to finish—he knows he will be tickled in the end. I love to see him happy and every smile makes mothering all the more worthwhile and fulfilling.

I pray that as **Jaime** grows up, he retains his cheerful disposition, stays close to God and becomes successful in whatever endeavor he chooses.

(Steffi del Rosario Inocentes is a full time mother. On the side, she does layouting of invitations and print materials for children's parties and corporate accounts.)

RISSA with son Miguel

Carnation Calcium Plus Operation Bone Check Goes Nationwide

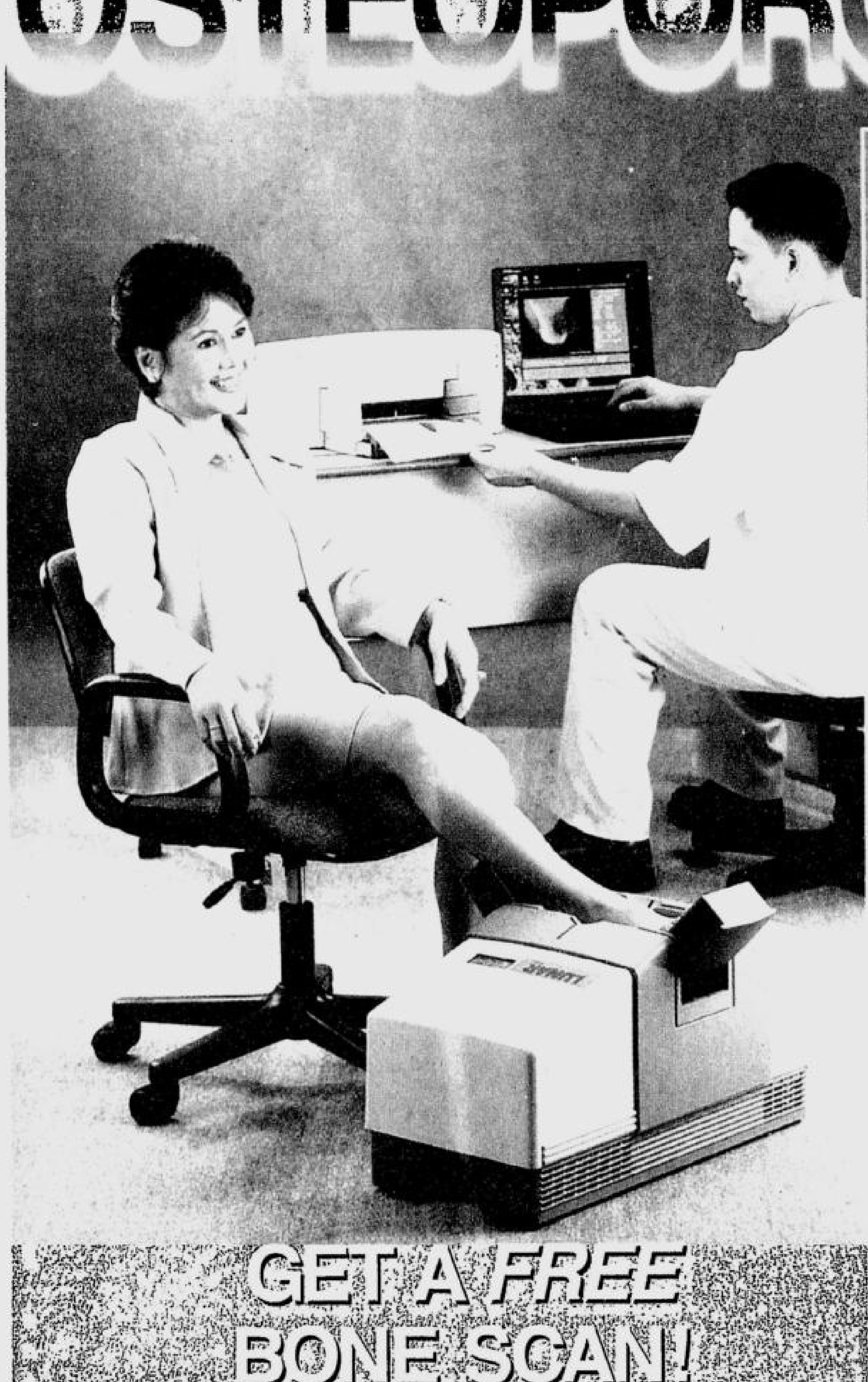
OSTEOPOROSIS is the world's most common bone disease. It's a silent killer that attacks from the inside. It may even cause a fracture that may result in death.

Although treatments are available, there is no cure for osteoporosis. The best bet to escape it is prevention through early detection—to stop bone loss before damage is irreversible.

This has been the battle cry of Carnation Calcium Plus and the very reason why Operation Bone Check was launched July of last year—to be able to provide free bone scan services to consumers in Luzon (primarily Metro Manila). To further fulfill its commitment to help Filipinos fight this crippling disease, more PIXI bone scanning machines have been deployed and more professional teams assembled to widen its coverage to the Visayas and Mindanao areas. So now, early detection through free bone scan services is available all over the country.

Fight osteoporosis with an early start. Have that bone scan and supplement your calcium intake with Carnation Calcium Plus. Each glass meets the 100 percent Filipino adult's recommended daily allowance for calcium as set by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI). Drink Calcium Plus everyday for stronger bones for the rest of your life.

FIND OUT IF YOU HAVE
OSTEOPOROSIS



Nestlé Carnation Calcium Plus
OPERATION BONE CHECK
osteoporosis screening

Bring one boxtop of Carnation Calcium Plus (200g, 450g or 800g pack) or five plastic labels from Ready-to-Drink bottles to get a free bone scan.

Just present them to the medical team and you're on your way to knowing your osteoporosis risk. And to assist you better, the first 150 customers who present their boxtops or plastic labels will be entitled to the free bone scan of the day.

For Stronger Bones.
For The Rest Of Your Life.

GET A FREE BONE SCAN!

It's time to fight osteoporosis. Be there when Operation Bone Check visits your area.

MANILA	
MAY 18-20	LANDMARK
MAY 21-27	BIG R SUPER CENTER, NOVALICHES
MAY 21-22	FAMILY DRUG STORE SM NORTH EDSA
MAY 23-24	FAMILY DRUG STORE SM SOUTHMALL
MAY 25-27	FAMILY DRUG STORE SM MEGAMALL
MAY 25-27	SOUTH SUPERMARKET ALABANG
LUZON	
MAY 7-13	ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET IMUS
MAY 14-20	ROBINSONS SUPERMARKET LOS BAÑOS
CEBU	
MAY 8-13	GAISANO METRO AYALA
MAY 15-20	GAISANO METRO COLON
MAY 22-27	GAISANO METRO MANDAUE
DAVAO	
MAY 8-13	CENTRO SUPERMART
MAY 15-20	DCWC-AGDAO
MAY 22-27	FELCRIS-QUIRINO

Valuable Lessons At True Value

SITO Recto True Value president (left), with Gianna Montinola, Program Director, Carmen Prieto and Jerome de Jesus at the opening of the Lifestyle Learning Center.

TWO events mark the month of May at True Value: The Mothers & Brides Houseware Sale at all True Value stores and the opening of Truly Yours Bridal Gift Registry at True Value, Rockwell.

The Houseware Sale are on items such as kitchen and cookware, bathroom accessories, storage containers, mats, clocks and other home decorative items. These items also complement the opening of the bridal gift registry section and the celebration of Mother's Day in May.

At the Shangri-la Edsa Mall branch, True Value is currently located at the 5th floor to continue serving the public while renovations at the 6th floor are ongoing to give the 1,200-square-meter store a snazzier look. The 6th floor store is expected to open in the third quarter of this year.

True Value is a home center that is a trusted resource for do-it-yourselfers. Its branches are located at Park Square I in Makati; Sta, Lucia East Grand Mall in Cainta; Alabang Town Center in Muntinlupa; Ayala Center in Cebu; Shangri-la Plaza Mall; and its flagship store with a Lifestyle Learning Center at Rockwell's Power Plant Mall in Makati.

Citibank's Exclusive Treats For Mom

SHOPPING for a gift or thinking of treating mommy to dinner? Whatever your plans are, be sure to take your Citibank credit card with you and avail of exclusive discounts and privileges.

Citibank credit cards have teamed up with the country's leading merchants and preferred dining places to help you celebrate Mother's Day in style. "In honor of the special women in our lives, Citibank credit cards is giving its cardholders a range of gift-giving and dining options—all loaded with discounts and free treats." explained Jenny Lacerna, Citibank assistant vice president for cards marketing.

This Mother's Day, simply flash your Citibank Silver Visa or MasterCard, Citibank Gold Visa or MasterCard, Shell Citibank MasterCard or Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa to enjoy special rates and to receive free treats from Citibank's promotion partners.

Appliance stores, jewelry shops, clothing and shoe outlets, bookstores, as well as health and beauty clubs are some of the establishments participating in Citibank's Mother's Day promotion.

For purchases of P5,000 or more, you may also avail of Citibank Paylite Installment Plan at selected merchants. Enjoy longer and lighter payment terms with PayLite—choosing from 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24-month installment terms.

Why not get your wife or mother the television set she's been eyeing for months? Rush to Avid Sales for a wide selection of Sony products. Or how about getting her a lasting gift? Go to Hans Brumann, JMA Jewelry, Lilli Jewelry, Mix Jems Fine Jewelry, Oro Y Plata, Seven Gems, Venice Jewelry or VY Domingo and get as much as 60 percent off.

For infanticipating moms, suit her up in a new finery from Big & Small Co. and Havin' A Baby at 5 percent discount. As for shoes, you can avail of 5 percent to 10 percent off at Clarks of England, Rockport and the Shoe Shop.

You can also treat her to a well-deserved pampering from Orient Day Spa, Perk or the Aromatherapy Center or first-rate skin treatments from the Skin and Surgery Specialists and Slimmers World International.

For more shopping ideas, drop by Electroworld for electronic gadgets, the Leather Collection for quality leather items, and Powerbooks for the latest bestsellers.

As for dining, have your fill of great food and a great time from Amazon Grill, Beluga Bistro, Buma Seafood Restaurant, Burgoo, Café Rizal, Cena, China Bistro, David's Restaurant, El Comedor, Europa Delicatessen and Butcher Shop, La Primavera, Lolo Dad's, Old Swiss Inn, Oliver's Super Sandwiches, the Coconut Grill, Pacific Wharf, Red Crab and Zensho. You can even bring the whole family to enjoy a night of karaoke singing at IO Family KTV and get five percent discount on your total bill.

"Apart from shopping and dining choices in Metro Manila, we are also offering our cardmembers privileges at selected establishments in Metro Cebu," declared Lacerna.

Citibank's Cebu-bases promotion partners include Café Laguna, Café Tarantanila and Lantaw Seafood Restaurant in Cebu Plaza Hotel, Cebu City Marriott Hotel, Chika-an sa Cebu, Dad's and Kamayan in SM City Cebu, Laguna Garden Café, Lighthouse Restaurant, Marco Polo Seafood Garden, Port Seafood Restaurant, Tiya Nena's and Waterfront Cebu City Hotel.

Another treat: all you expenses charged on your Citibank credit day this Mother's Day will earn Rewards points you can redeem for free gifts or trips abroad. Every P30 spent using you Citibank card gives you one Rewards point.

"And with a new Rewards catalog out this May, offering an exciting array of gift items for you and your family, you have all the best reasons to use your Citibank credit card," added Lacerna.

For more information, call the 24-hour Citiphone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila or 234-9999 in Metro Cebu.

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ALEX R. SANTOS

El Comedor, Makati

It's your chance to repay Mom on Mother's Day

On this special day, make sure your Mom gets the red carpet treatment - either by taking her out to dinner or letting her shop to her heart's content.

And to make it a perfect celebration, we'll give special privileges to the best mom in the world - your Mom!

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USE NOW!

For more details, please call 24-Hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila, 234-9999 in Metro Cebu or 1-800-10-9959999 in other provinces.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0627, Series of 2001

PARTICIPATING MERCHANTS

A Taste of Mandarin (Gaisano Country Mall Cebu) Free dessert for a minimum bill worth P1,000
Amazon Grill — Free siig for every P1,000 food/beverage bill
AViD* Sony Shop — 10% discount on regular-priced Sony tapes; 10% discount on regular priced movie softwares; 5% discount on regular-priced Sony products
Beluga / Pravda / La Cave — 5% discount on food & drinks
Big & Small Co. — 5% discount on all regular & non consigned items
Buma Sea Food Market — 10% discount
Burgoo — Free buffalo chicken wings or supreme nachos
Cafe Laguna Restaurant & Catering Services — Free puto bungbong or bibingka for every P500 bill
Cafe Rizal — For every family of 5 availing buffet lunch, 1 eats free. Good for Saturdays & Sundays only. Free slice of rum raisin cheesecake for a minimum purchase of P500 during weekdays
Cafe Tartanilla (Cebu Plaza Hotel) — 10% discount on total food bill. Free glass of house wine on succeeding visits
Cená — 10% discount
China Bistro — Free dessert for mom
Chika-an cebu — Free Poiqiq Delight for every P500 food bill only
Clarks England — 10% off on all regular merchandise
Cebu City Marriott Hotel* — Special room rate of P2,200NET good for single/double occupancy deluxe room accommodation. Includes international breakfast buffet, free use of Fitness Center & Sauna and 20% discount on laundry
Dad's Steaks • Ribs Seafood (SM City Cebu) — Free drinks on buffet OR 1 person eats free for every 10 persons availing buffet meal
David's — 10% discount on any steak entree order and free dessert
El Comedor — For every group of five, Mother dines for free
Electroworld*
Europa Delicatessen & Butcher Shop — 5% discount at the restaurant and delicatessen shop
Gioielli — 40%-50% discount
Hans Brumann* — 15% discount
Havin' A Baby — 5% discount on all regular & non-consigned items
IO Family KTV — 5% discount
JMA* — 5% discount for a minimum purchase of P5,000
Kamayan (SM City Cebu) — Free drinks on buffet OR 1 person eats free for every 10 persons availing buffet meal
La Primavera* Ristorante Italiano — 10% discount on food and beverage bill
Laguna — Free puto bungbong or bibingka for every P500 bill
Lantaw Seafood and Native Restaurant Cebu Plaza Hotel — 10% discount on total food bill. Free glass of house wine on succeeding visits
Lighthouse Restaurant Cebu — Free gift for a minimum bill worth P1,000
Lili Jewellery* — 20%-30% discount on fine diamond jewelry for straight payment; 5%-10% discount on gold jewelry for straight payment; 10%-15% discount on fine jewelry for PayLite. Special gifts and gift certificates to be given away for every purchase
Lolo Dad's Cafe — Free creme broulee or chocolate & walnut bread pudding
Marco Polo Seafood Garden — Free Almond Jelly for a minimum bill worth P1,000
Mix Gems* — 15% discount
Super Sandwiches — Free iced tea for every purchase of a regular sandwich or pasta*
Old Swiss Inn since 1946 — 10% discount
Oro y Plata* — 10% discount
OreficeriA* — 15% discount
Orient Day Spa* — 15% discount on half-year membership fee. Special rate of P15,000 good for 50 visits for massage services
Perk* — Free detoxification massage treatment for every herbology body polish*
Pinctada* — 40%-50% discount
Port Seafood Restaurant (Cebu) — Free Ube Macapuno Gelatin for every P500 food bill only
Power Books* — 5% off and free giftwrapping
Rockport — 5% discount at the following branches: Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, Glorietta III, and Robinson's Place-Manila
Sansaki Japanese Restaurant and Sushi Bar (SM City Cebu) — Free drinks on buffet OR 1 person eats free for every 10 persons availing buffet meal
Seven Gems* Jewelry — 60% off on Italian gold & Saudi gold; 50% off on Chinese gold; 40%-50% off on diamonds & colored stones
Siuvoni* Collections — 40%-50% discount
Skin & Surgery Specialists* — 10% discount for Citibank credit card transactions for services rendered only. 15% discount for PayLite transactions
Slimmers World* — 60% discount on derma services. Free derma consultation
The Aromatherapy Center* — 10% off on all services; 5% off on all products
Coconut Grill — 10% discount on food (ala carte) and beverage bill
The Leather Collection* — 10% discount and free key chain
The Pacific Wharf — Free fruit crepe for mother who dines with family
The Red Crab Seafood and Steaks — 5% discount on food & drinks
The Shoe Shop — 5% discount at the following branches: Shangri-La Plaza Mall & Rockwell Power Plant
Tiya Nena's (Cebu) — Free Buko Pandan Gelatin for every P500 food bill only
Venice Jewellers* — 60% discount on gold items
Viomar* — 10% discount
VY Domingo Diamonds & Gems, Inc.* — 20% discount
Watercolors — 10% discount
Waterfront Cebu City Hotel — For a group of 4 persons, mother eats for free with complimentary drink
Zensho — 5% discount and free dessert

*Purchases may be paid through Citibank PayLite's 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24 - month options. (Minimum purchase of P5,000 required)

CITIBANK

THE BRIDE'S MAIDS & CO. WITH "METRO MAGAZINE"

The Launch of "Metro Veil"

GIA Bernardo, Leah Sanchez, Rachel Climent, Marichelle Ligon and Lia Bernardo of Bride's Maids and Co.

GUESTS enjoy the outdoor feel of the newly opened patio of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel

JOY Wassmer, Thelma San Juan and Lia Bernardo presenting the maiden issue of Metro Veil to the guests.

PHOTOS BY BENNY BONDOC

FORGIVE us if we are beaming with pride. It was an outstanding event for the Bride's Maids & Co. when ABS-CBN Publishing launched the maiden issue of "Metro Veil" last May 2 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The young women that comprise the Bride's Maids & Co. have been so much a part of Elan, **Rachel Climent**, former Elan associate editor, **Leah Sanchez, Marichelle Ligon** and **Lia Bernardo.** It is to their credit that weddings found their way back to the social pages when it had been dismissed during and after martial law. It was the Bride's Maids and Co. that first featured fianceed couples instead of formal announcements, and made weddings the great social events that they are today.

The planning and execution of weddings are great productions and these young ladies developed an industry that has been copied but never replicated.

"It was exactly two years ago that the first issue of "Veil" was first launched at the Cheval Blanc of the Makati Shangri-La. "Veil" is the very first comprehensive bridal guidebook made especially for the Filipina. The Bride's Maids & Co.'s eight years experience in the wedding and event coordination business made the book an veritable encyclopedia replete with details and ideas for a perfect wedding, leaving nothing to chance.

Two years later, "Metro," Manila's famous lifestyle magazine, headed by **Ms Thelma San Juan** collaborated with Manila's wedding industry's shakers and movers, the Bride's Maids & Co. to form "Metro Veil," a continuation of the original "Veil."

The beautiful cocktail launch was held at the Parañaque room and its adjoining patio of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. **Mr. Rey Villar** (Director of Marketing), **Mrs. Joy Wassmer** Director of Communications) and **Ms Bea Marquez** (Director of Catering) graciously hosted the cocktail party and made sure that all the guests were treated with that "unmistakable Shangri-La" hospitality. Guests also enjoyed fine wine from Maxxium Philippines—thanks to **Ms Joan Tioseco**! Members of the Fashion Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP), namely, **Randy Ortiz, Patrice Ramos-Diaz** and **Michele Sison** likewise contributed to the affair's success.

Present were family and friends of the Bride's Maids & Co., friends from ABS-CBN Publishing and members of the press. Friends from the wedding industry such as **Tony Padilla** of Floral Designs, **Heny Sison, Glenn Remorca, Robert Blancaflor** of 1816 Flowers, Zena's Pineda of Rustan's Flower Shop, **Peachy** and **Odette** of Select Expressions, **Ronnie Orallo** of Disc Traxion and many others also came in full force to support the Bride's Maids & Co.'s latest project.

After cocktails, guests proceeded to the Rizal Ballroom to watch the third fashion show of Bridal Fete 2001 where Metro Veil featured gowns designed by Manila's favorite designers—**Pepito Albert, Auggie Cordero, Rhett Eala, Ben Farrales, Noli Hanns, Rajo Laurel, Jojie Lloren, Loretto, Pitoy Moreno, Joe Salazar, Michele Sison** and **Inno Sotto**.

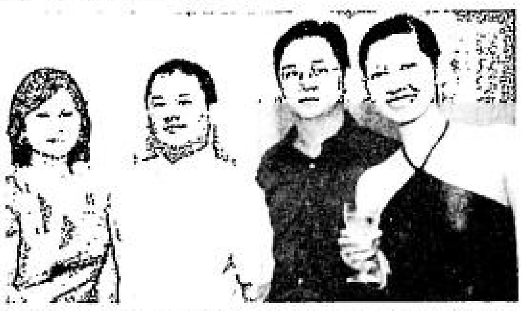
GEORGINA Mac Crohon, Leah Sanchez, Marichelle Ligon and Bobby Novenario

JUN-JUN Ablaza, Ben Go, Heny Sison, Mitos Suarez showing support to the Bride's Maids & Co.

MARGE Estrella, Rachel Climent, Vida Estrella and Leah Sanchez

ALDEN Gonzales, Vivian Hermo, Marichelle Ligon, Roselyn Torres enjoying cocktails prepared by Makati Shangri-La Hotel

THELMA San Juan and Cher Calvin enjoy a conversation at the launch



LEAH Sanchez, Butch Ledesma, Jay and Marga Ramos

BEN Farrales

PITOY Moreno

MARITES Climent, Carmen Montes and Nina Montes

CLOSE friends of the Bride's Maids and Co. Mike Huang, Carmen Montes, Kiko Climent, Leah Huang, Mia Villanueva, Vicky Jalandoni and Tommy Villanueva celebrate the the occasion

---

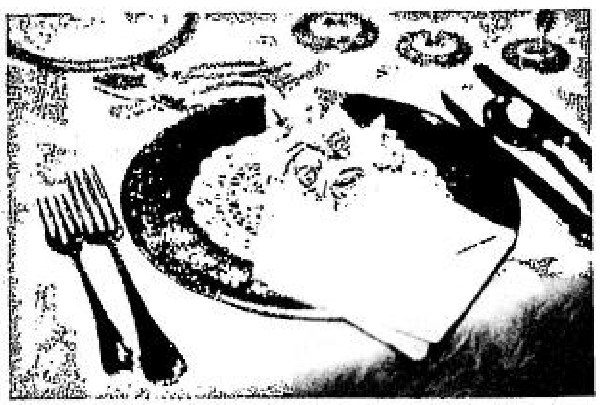
A Peek at Metro Veil

with gift ideas for mom . . .

MR. and Mrs. Ping Alfonso

FEATHERED bag with pear strap from Michele Sison

A CLASSIC blue-and-white bowl with floating lily can be incorporated into your table decor.



SURPRISE mom with this table setting on Mother's Day: showplate and tasseled napkin-ring echoed the opulent theme of the wedding on Lindy and Steve Theodoropolous.

THE BRIDE'S family: from left are Tommy, Mrs. Marge Ansaldo-Tambunting, Vic-Vic and her father, Ambassador Jesus Tambunting, sister Mia and brother, Stevie.

TRIANGULAR bridal pouch from Michele Sison

RON and Ching Estrella making their vows at the 18th tee of a golf course.

BAGUIO City Mayor Mauricio Domogan (3rd from left) congratulates the Wright sisters for an excellent performance. With them are organizers, Salou Sobrepeña (left) and Nicolas Tabora (right) and former mayor Gene de Guia.

LOCAL talents were invited to participate in the program. Vocalist Mario Coloma, Flutist Vincent Ragay, Saxophonist, Joanifer Abubo, and violinist Tarahata Arevalo.

The Wright Sisters Soar To New Heights

MARY Jo (left) and Mary Ann with mom, Emma Hilado-Wright.

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY EDNA REYNOSO-ANTON

IF the **Wright** brothers invented a machine that enabled men to fly to the skies, the Wright sisters of Bacolod, through the awesome power and incredible dexterity of their fingers at the ivories sent the audience' spirits soaring to the heavens with their breathtaking performance at the CAP auditorium recently. Baguio's climate went up by several degrees as the city warmly welcomed the brilliant sisters.

Listening enthralled and spellbound like the rest of us was **Emma Hilado-Wright**, a very dignified lady who never fails to inspire her daughters, pianist **Mary Jo**, a mother of two, who is married to **Jesus Tanpinco** and organist **Mary Ann,** a mother of five, whose hubby **Ignacio Añover** is a practicing lawyer.

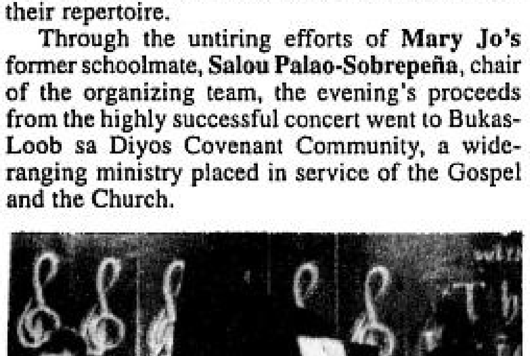
A St. Scholastica Manila commerce graduate who studied piano and voice lessons, **Mrs. Wright,** whose husband **Jesus** passed away eight years ago, has four other sons. **Jesus Jr.** (who died of cancer at a very young age), Roberto, **Jimmy** and **Gerry**. Although there is a ten-year gap between the eldest, **Mary Jo**, and the youngest, **Mary Ann**, the talent they inherited from their mother was equally distributed.

Both sisters are graduates of the St. Scholastica's College in Manila and holders of Bachelor of Music degrees, major in piano. Mary **Jo**, who, in 1968 won the Manila Symphony Orchestra Competition, received the Sr. Baptista Battig Award for excellence in Music.

She was also a recipient of the Sr. Baptista Battig Scholarship and the Battig Music Circle Scholarship. **Mary Ann**, who graduated with distinction, was a scholar of the St. Scholastica's Music Alumnae Association and the MJO foundation of the Victorias Milling Company. She taught at the Yamaha School of Music for 10 years prior to joining the SSC Music Department.

Although **Mary Jo** lives in Bacolod where she is a contract grower of Swift Foods Inc., and **Mary Ann** teaches music in Manila, the sisters, who perform with amazing precision practice their pieces by keeping their telephone lines open (it is no wonder PLDT was a major sponsor in their concert). Prior to a big performance, their musical director and "forever" teacher, **Ms Marieta N. Cruz,** whom both sisters consider a musical genius and who is known as one of the best piano teachers and accompanists in the country today, stays with them from sunup to sundown as they go through their repertoire.

Through the untiring efforts of **Mary Jo's** former schoolmate, **Salou Palao-Sobrepeña**, chair of the organizing team, the evening's proceeds from the highly successful concert went to Bukas-Loob sa Diyos Covenant Community, a wide-ranging ministry placed in service of the Gospel and the Church.



THE SISTERS during the performance

LUNCH at Camp John Hay after the concert. Jean Verzosa, Salou Sobrepeña, Mary Ann, Mary Jo and Mrs. Wright.

Kodak
EXPRESS
QUALITY MONITORING SERVICE
Celebrate Mother's Day
and get twice the memories
with a 2nd set of prints FREE!
3-DAY OFFER ONLY!

From May 14-16, every roll of film entered for developing in 4R size at any participating Kodak Express outlet gives you a 2nd set of prints FREE! With Kodak, both you and your mother will have pictures that you can keep forever.

Kodak
LIFETIME
GUARANTEE

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1638 Series of 2000

WELCOME HOME, MARILOU

IT is so nice to have you back even for just awhile, **Marilou Mabilangan Haley**! Fresh from her stint in the White House where she worked under the former **United States President Bill Clinton, Maria Haley**, as she is better known in the United States came home for a much needed break from the corridors of power of the world's most powerful country, where she has been working these past eight years. Probably the most prominent among the Filipino Americans today, **Marilou Mabilangan Haley** has had over 20 years experience in international business, product development and program management. Her credentials includes among others, the following impressive titles:

- Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Presidential Personnel, The White House, Washington,DC
- Director and Member of the Board, The Export Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank,) Washinton DC
- Special Assistant to the President for Economics, Commerce and Trade.
- Deputy Personnel Director and Deputy Political Director Clinton/Gore Transition Team.

Not many can boast of coming home in such a blaze of glory like **Marilou**. It is now her fondest wish to share some of her good fortune with the country of her birth and her mother land, the Philippines. Probably, the only Filipina today, who can pick up a telephone and speak to anyone in power both in the Philippines as well as the United States, because of her connections, she would like to help in whatever way she can to bring in much needed aid, economic, military and political to this country.

She has been feted during her stay here and has touched base with friends from way back. It was delightful to see her again.

MARILOU with Washington Sycip

TONETTE Lagdameo, Ada Mabilangan and Arturo Macapagal.

WITH OV and Marilen Espiritu

GEORGE Drysdale

THE MEMBERS of the Philippine Foundation for the Filipino Youth, still ongoing and initiated in 1964. Arturo Macapagal, Ada Mabilangan, Ricky Delgado, Sonny Alvarez, Ching Escaler, Marilou, Cecile Guidote,Mariter Macapagal, Tonette Lagdameo and Serge Osmeña.

BOBBY Romulo and Marilou

DOING the Pachangga are Dick and Ada

SECRETARY Sonny Alvarez, Mariter Jalandoni and Ambassador Felipe Mabilangan.

MARILOU with Sonny and Cecile Alvarez

DICK Gordon and Sally Navarro

ROY Navarro and Olivia Romulo

JOEY Cuisia and Ada Mabilabgan

SENATOR Serge Osmeña and Marilou

Avon For Mom

ANEW Retroactive

AVON, the global beauty company, introduces a revolutionary skin care product called **Anew Retroactive**. Known as the company that introduced the wonders of alpha hydroxy acid (AHA) in 1992, **Avon** once more makes real two items in a woman's most desired wish list: to look young again and to keep on looking young.

While other skin care treatments work on the surface, **Anew Retroactive** goes deep down to the skin cells to actually reverse the signs of aging. Skin not only acts, but looks younger, healthier and more vibrant. How could this be possible, you ask. While a fairy godmother's must-have tool is the magic wand, **Anew Retroactive** boasts of its Rejuvi-Cell Complex, the Pro-Youth Formula.

Now, **Anew Retroactive's** exclusive Pro-Youth Formula is formulated to enhance cell communication and jumpstart cell activity. This exclusive blend includes Sunflower seed extract, Plankton extract, milk protein actives and Chinese herbs. Skin cells are stimulated to communicate to one another as actively as they did when you were younger (or as they do now that you are young)!

Another good news is that **Anew Retroactive** is able to enhance the benefits of other Anew Treatments/Products. For instance, regular users of Anew All-in-One Perfecting Complex or Anew Luminosity Brightening Complex will find that using Anew Retroactive alongside these treatments allow them to see and experience beautiful changes more speedily. They will soon notice an overall youthful appearance and healthy-looking skin that is more luminous!

Anew Retroactive is available through Avon Ladies nationwide and at Avon Boutiques in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Southmall and Ali Mall this May 2001.

Avon is the world's leading direct seller of beauty and related products, with $5.3 billion in annual sales revenues. **Avon** markets to women in 136 countries through three million independent sales representatives. Avon product lines include such recognizable brands as Anew, Skin-So-Soft, Avon Color and Avon Basics. Avon also markets an extensive line of fashion jewelry, apparel, gifts and collectibles. More information and its products can be found on the company's award-winning website *www.avon.com.*

MESSAGE OF THE WEEK
3

Send Mom more than just flowers this week.

Your Mom deserves something more on her special day, so start sending her a different message each week! Text her with PLDT TXT 135 - the first nationwide landline-to-cell texting service. Press 3 and send a heartwarming message to her SMART GSM or TALK 'N TEXT cellphone. Touching Mom's heart is just touch of a button away. It was never this easy to send her your love.

PLDT tXt 135
If you can't say it, txt it.

PLDT convergence@home
www.pldt.com.ph

A MOTHER'S SIMPLE JOYS

The little girl you carried, the little boy you played with, is now overseas. You miss them so much… wouldn't it be nice to hear their voices once again? When children leave the nest to work or study abroad, mothers will always think of them as children still, to be reminded of values taught, to admonish about eating well, or to ask what's on their mind. Particularly among the closely-knit Filipino family, the matriarch never fails to check on her kids – whether they're grown-up, married, or "bound-to-be."

The children, on the other hand, might cringe at being babied, but welcome the caring just the same, more so when living so far from the home they had known all their life. PLDT's popular "Hello Billy" TV ad, the phrase that's on everyone's lips these days, sums up the concern of mothers or family matriarchs, who think nothing of time and money just to maintain contact with their children despite their being continents apart.

One such mother is Marina V. Davila (shown in photos with her daughter and grandchildren) who says, "I call my children abroad quite often, as I miss my grandchildren – they're aged 2 to 18 years. I'm particularly concerned because they are still in their formative years. The calls are a good substitute for my not being there. I want to know how they're doing in school and my children tell me about their playful antics. Just to hear the toddlers talk, sing and cry makes me very happy! It certainly makes it easy for me to imagine that I'm holding them in my arms."

But Marina has to be practical – calls are only five to ten minutes long, sometimes, a little longer. Although she can also keep in touch with them through e-mail, she declares, "It's no substitute for a personal phone call. The calls allow me to hear my children and grandchildren's voices and to have a feel of their everyday life. These overseas calls always make my day and I look forward to them."

But telecom giant PLDT, however, knows even grandmothers like Marina can be deterred by phone bills that, in the past, spiraled up to the high heavens. And the bill for each call does grow larger with the extra "pabilin" and updates that other members of the clan squeeze in. Even news of a relative having a facelift, or a great recipe at the latest family gathering are mentioned, or the many "kamustas" that must be relayed to the cousin or relative living in another part of the US.

Recognizing the need for families like the Davilas, to stay in touch with each other, and that toll calls can even amount to the sum of a plane fare, PLDT is giving a sure-to-be-highly-appreciated US$0.40 rate for its IDD service to PLDT subscribers. The discount assures users of longer talk time and more frequent calls to their loved ones overseas – which is what "Hello Billy" is all about.

PLDT's "Hello Billy" TV commercials depict a mom who constantly calls her son Billy in the States to check on him, and her mounting curiosity about his fiancee, Grasya ("grace" in English). Billy, always the respectful and admirable son, answers his mom's suspicious questions with love and humor. From just mere "reminder" calls from the mom, the story has gone on to reveal new and interesting characters, and the various not-so-subtle tactics of the mom to find out more and more about the mysterious "Grasya". The current commercials show Billy telling his mom that he and Grasya will be coming home so that he can properly introduce his wife-to-be to her. By the looks of it, with the couturier Joey character thrown in for good measure, a wedding will soon follow (we'll all just have to wait for what will happen next!).

MRS. DAVILA WITH her US-based grandchildren, twins Patricia and Julia Davila and namesake Marina Raabe.

"I like the commercial on Grasya, it gives people an instant and natural reaction of a mother concerned about her son," says Marina.

To the many parents and children or grandparents and grandchildren, separated by oceans, these intimate calls are lifelines, and longer talk time means a whole difference in keeping the bond alive. The conversation is priceless. And reducing the phone bill would mean so much to all the Marina Davilas in the country! It means more than lower bills — it means being able to continue their role as counselor, the ear that listens, and the shoulder to cry on… even from a distance.

Sa PLDT NDD, 'di mahal mag I love you kay Mommy ngayong Linggo.

PLDT NATIONAL DIRECT DIALING
For free NDD activation, call 171 or visit the nearest PLDT Business Office.

PLDT NDD Rates
PLDT to PLDT*
P3.00 per minute
Saan man sa Pilipinas
PLDT to other landlines
0-170 km P 3.50 per minute
170-635 km P 4.00 per minute
635-over km P 5.00 per minute

Saan man sa Pilipinas si Nanay, boses mo ang nais niyang marinig ngayong Mother's Day. Kaya PLDT NDD lang ang dapat mong gamitin - P3.00/minute* na, malinaw mo pang mapapadama ang pagmamahal mo sa kanya.

PLDT
convergence@home

My Mom, Winnie

BY IAN MONSOD

KNOWING what kind of persona my mom tends to impart onto the viewing public, it comes as no surprise that her life off-camera can be a curiosity. Being her favorite son (for lack of existing competition), I'm usually the one tasked for such descriptions.

Probably most known as the outspoken host of "Debate with Mare and Pare," she can come off as one who is tough, focused and unyielding. As much as it can be true, that is only one side of her. She is a passionate person, who says what she feels. At home, that translates to a mother that can be firm but on the other hand, also very affectionate and demonstrative.

As much as it is common for her to stand her ground in an argument, it is not uncommon for her to reach for the hand of my dad or the nearest child during Mass, or any activity that makes us sit beside her for a period of time. Oftentimes, you can find her head leaning on a shoulder.

She never misses any theater production that my sister and I are involved in. She is the first to congratulate and give words of praise, yet will also offer her critique. She is also the first to laugh at a good joke. If the joke affects her a bit too much though, she has trouble repeating it to others. Before she gets to the punch line, she is already in stitches and can't go on.

She is sentimental. Birthdays and anniversaries are fussed about. Not a Christmas Day passes without the whole family having to sing Christmas carols together after dinner. To the guests who have joined us on such occasion, they know that none are spared from singing at least one solo line.

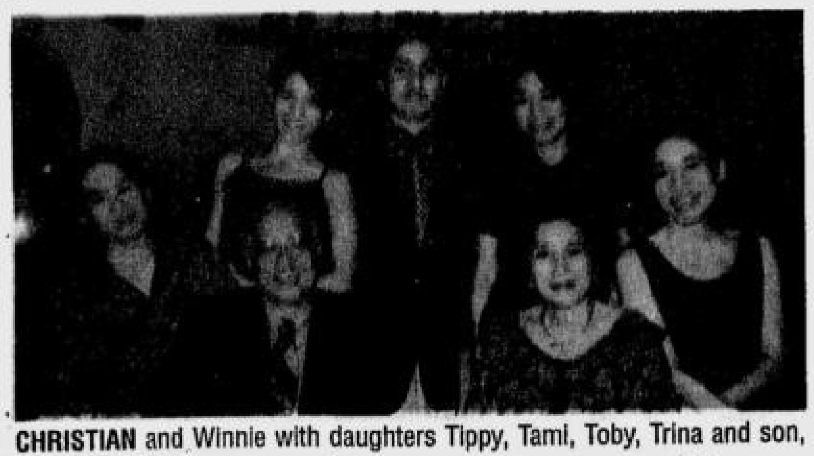
She cries during sad movies and can't bear to finish one that has a tragic ending. On a more personal level, a particular instance of her unabashed affection comes to mind. Many years ago, as a senior in UP School of Economics, I was also a part-time musician with long hair, a goatee and an earring.

I will never forget one day I rode with my mom to school. Upon disembarking from the car in the lobby, she decides to be affectionate. She holds my hand through the whole length of that lobby that is lined with students waiting for the next class. As we reach the end of that walk, she then kisses me goodbye and says, "Have a nice day, bear!" that being her term of endearment to me since I was a child.

To the few wide-eyed and probably giggling studentry, I was now, bear.

She is capable of doing things that appear cliched as long as she believes it is the right thing to do—and she does it with utmost sincerity. In a way, my mom is like a child. Without a hint of self-consciousness, she laughs at things that are funny, cries for what is sad, is angered by the unacceptable, and tells it like it is. No cynicism or strategic maneuvering. What you see is what you get.

To those who know her as the fiery no-nonsense broadcast personality, I'll let you in on a secret. She's all heart.

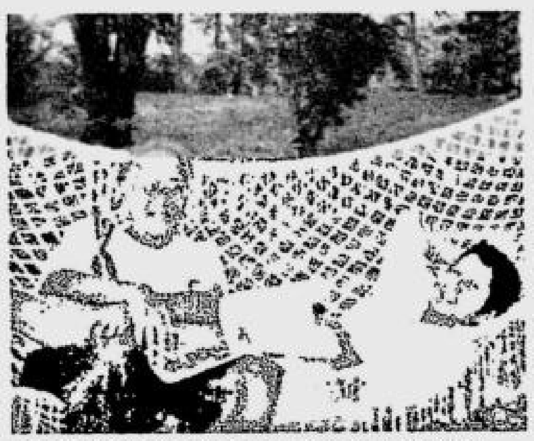

CHRISTIAN and Winnie with daughters Tippy, Tami, Toby, Trina and son, Ian.

CHRISTMAS in Subic, 1999. The whole family, plus Bobby Borromeo, the husband of Tippy, making faces.

WINNIE with her siblings, Annie, Winkie, Muchi, Angie and Johnny.

MARENG Winnie with son, Ian, at 70s Bistro for a fundraiser organized by UP Kay Winnie, with Noel Cabangon.

WITH Fr. Dave Turnbull of San Antonio Parish


RELAXING in Subic with husband, Christian.

Wella Balsam With Fruit Wax Launch

HAVE you ever wondered why certain fruits like apples, oranges and grapes can stay fresh for so long provided they are not peeled? Take the apple, for instance. Slice off part of the skin and the exposed part quickly turns dark and dries up. But the part with the skin still intact stays fresh.

That's because these fruits have natural fruit waxes on their skin that protect them from the environment and preserve the moisture to keep them fresh longer.

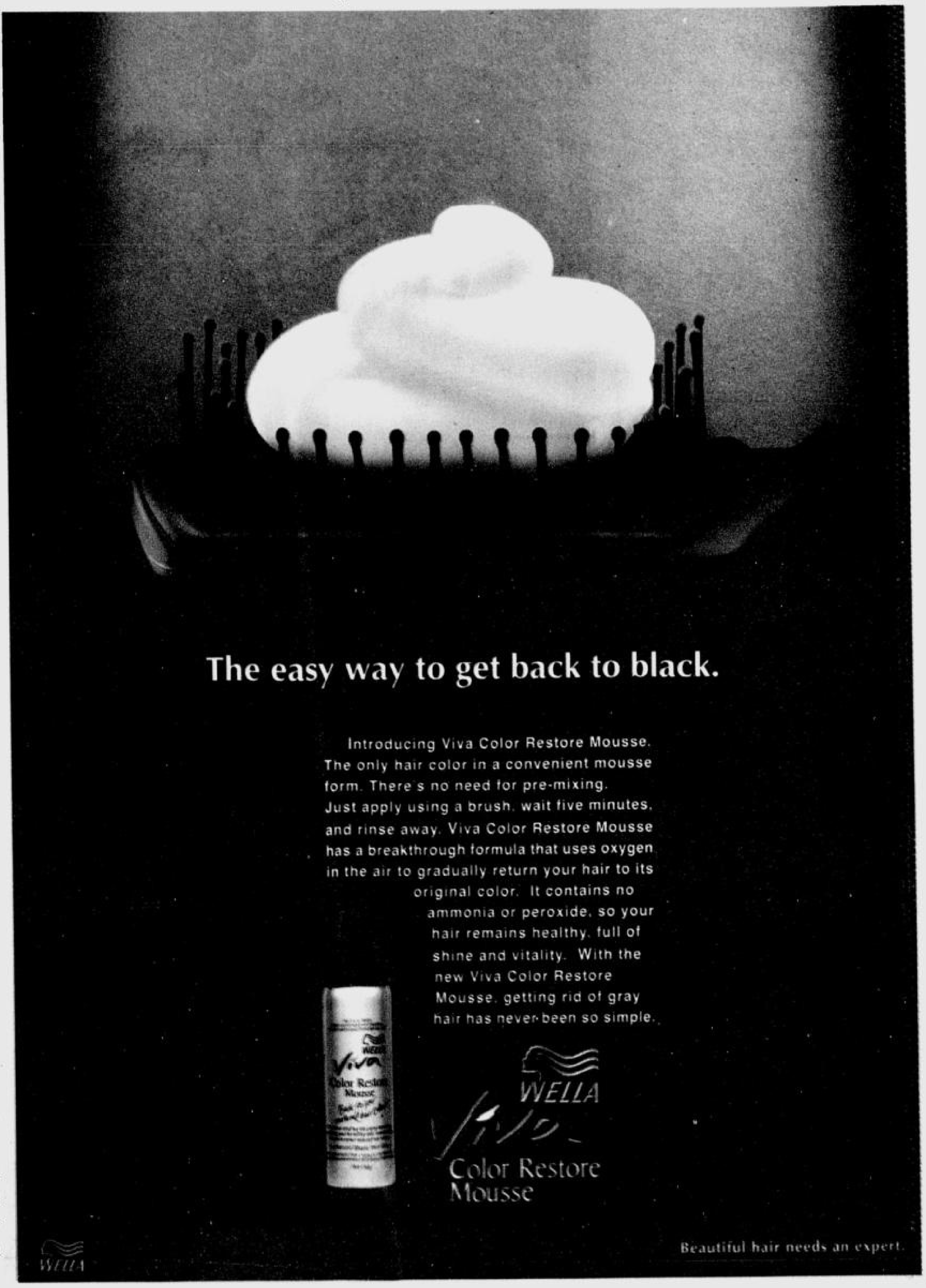
The protective action of fruit waxes has long been an object of interests and intense study by cosmetic scientists, especially those in the fields of skin and hair. Research and development laboratories have tried to capture the action of fruit waxes to protect skin and hair from the natural elements, like the sun, wind and water, environmental stress like dust and pollution, and from chemicals to which the skin and hair are exposed. If fruit waxes could protect skin and hair the same way they protect the fruits themselves, skin and hair could withstand the effects of the elements and the environment, and stay healthy and beautiful longer.

Now, the laboratories of Wella, the world leader in hair care, have taken a page out of nature's book and achieved a breakthrough in this field. Wella has developed a revolutionary range of products that gives one's hair the ultimate in protection and care.

Wella has successfully taken the natural fruit wax found in fruits and incorporated this in the new Wella Balsam range of shampoos, conditioners and intensive treatment conditioners.

The new Wella Balsam range of hair care products contains natural fruit waxes in the form of millions of tiny "micro crystals," which attach themselves to the surface of the hair. These micro crystals give each hair strand the same protection and care that fruit waxes give to the fruits themselves. They protect the hair from the harmful effects of the sun, wind and water. They also protect the hair from damage due to excessive brushing, pollution and chemicals. Small, microscopic spaces in between these micro crystals allow the hair to breathe. This enables the hair to maintain its natural moisture balance. The result is hair that's superbly protected, well-cared for, shiny and easy to manage.

This whole month of May, Wella Balsam with Fruit Wax will launch its new collection of shampoo, conditioner and intensive treatment conditioner in all SM Health & Beauty outlets. Come and join the attractive promo and win Nokia 3310 cell phones and Wella Balsam t-shirts everyday.


The easy way to get back to black.

Introducing Viva Color Restore Mousse. The only hair color in a convenient mousse form. There's no need for pre-mixing. Just apply using a brush, wait five minutes, and rinse away. Viva Color Restore Mousse has a breakthrough formula that uses oxygen in the air to gradually return your hair to its original color. It contains no ammonia or peroxide, so your hair remains healthy, full of shine and vitality. With the new Viva Color Restore Mousse, getting rid of gray hair has never been so simple.

WELLA
Viva
Color Restore
Mousse

Beautiful hair needs an expert.

Neutrogena Salutes Women Achievers in the Philippines

OVER the years, **Neutrogena** has enjoyed an international image of being an "effacious skin care line and the 'intelligent' choice in skin care." In line with this image, **Neutrogena** is currently launching a Southeast Asian wide campaign in honor of young women achievers.

"Neu Woman" is a campaign that acknowledges the achievements of women in Southeast Asia. **Neutrogena** acknowledges that the Asian women have indeed achieved and excelled in whatever chosen field she has decided to pursue.

The **Neu Woman** transcends a pretty face. She is one with confidence, style and grace. She is intelligent and makes her own choices. She has chosen a career in which she excels and she leads a balance life.

The **Neu Woman** recognition award will be launched in Singapore and Philippines in May and June respectively, and in Thailand and Malaysia this October. In each country, a special Board of Women has been set up, comprising women who themselves, are achievers and who are successful in their fields, to nominate the women who they feel meet Neutrogena's criteria. Three to five **Neu Women** will be chosen for each country by the New Women Board members.

In the Philippines, the Neu Women Board Members are: **Thelma San Juan** (chair), former lifestyle editor of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and editor in chief of Metro Magazine. Presently, she is the general manager of ABS-CBN Publishing. **Marivic Rufino Buenaventura** is a visual artist and concert producer. **Dr. Socceur Oblepias, MD** is a diplomate of the Philippine Board of Dermatology, who is an authority on photodamage and anti-aging. **Chiqui Brosas-Hahn** was a former Bb. Pilipinas-Universe title holder, now wife and mother, who is considered authority on natural childbearing methods in the Philippines, for which she is also an instructor. **Joyce Orena-Stalder** is a top fashion model, who lives in Hong Kong and writes a fashion style column for the Philippine Star.

The **Neutrogena** board met on two occasions recently to nominate and choose five women, who will be the Philippines' Neu Women for 2001. The Neu Women awards ceremony will take place on June 21, 2001.

STANDING from left are Lia Bernardo, Skin Care Services Manager; Dr. Socceur Obleplas MD, diplomate of the Phil. Board of Dermatology; Thelma San Juan, editor in chief of Metro and general manager of ABS-CBN Publishing; Marivic Rufino Buenaventura, visual artist and concert producer. Seated from left are Yvette Llarena, International PR Manager, Neutrogena; Tiffany Romasanta, brand manager, Neutrogena; and Chiqui Brosas-Hahn, former Bb. Pilipinas-Universe title holder.

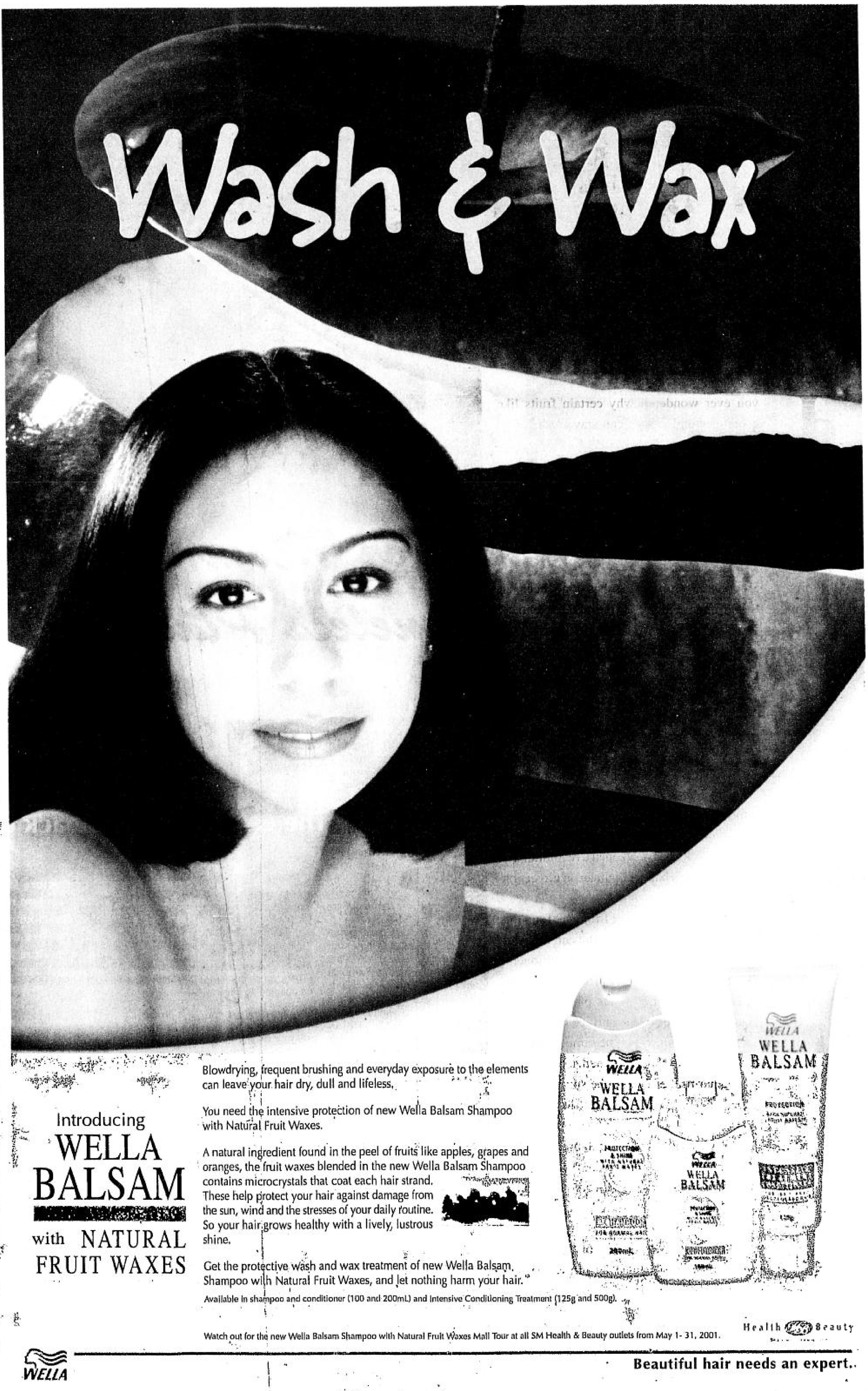
Get Back That Natural Hair Color

LOOKING young is part of feeling good. That is why people go to great lengths just to look the part. Topmost in people's minds when it comes to looking younger is their hair. That is why hair coloring has become popular, not just for those who need it for their graying hair but also for those who simply want to accentuate their crowning glory. But some color-enhancing products are so inconvenient to use, some doubt if it is even worth all the fuss.

All these are about to change with Viva Color Restore Mousse. The safe and effective permanent hair color that restores the natural color of the hair in just two to three days. For those who want to add some vitality to their look. This is the simple and convenient way.

Viva Color Restore Mousse is the first of its kind in the market that brings back the natural color of the hair with the convenience of a mousse application. It gently returns gray hair to its natural color while maintaining its health. The process is unnoticeable but the result is simply spectacular.

Maintaining a younger look has never been this easy. Thanks to Viva Color Restore Mousse.


Wash & Wax

Introducing
WELLA
BALSAM
with NATURAL
FRUIT WAXES

Blowdrying, frequent brushing and everyday exposure to the elements can leave your hair dry, dull and lifeless.

You need the intensive protection of new Wella Balsam Shampoo with Natural Fruit Waxes.

A natural ingredient found in the peel of fruits like apples, grapes and oranges, the fruit waxes blended in the new Wella Balsam Shampoo contains microcrystals that coat each hair strand. These help protect your hair against damage from the sun, wind and the stresses of your daily routine. So your hair grows healthy with a lively, lustrous shine.

Get the protective wash and wax treatment of new Wella Balsam Shampoo with Natural Fruit Waxes, and let nothing harm your hair.

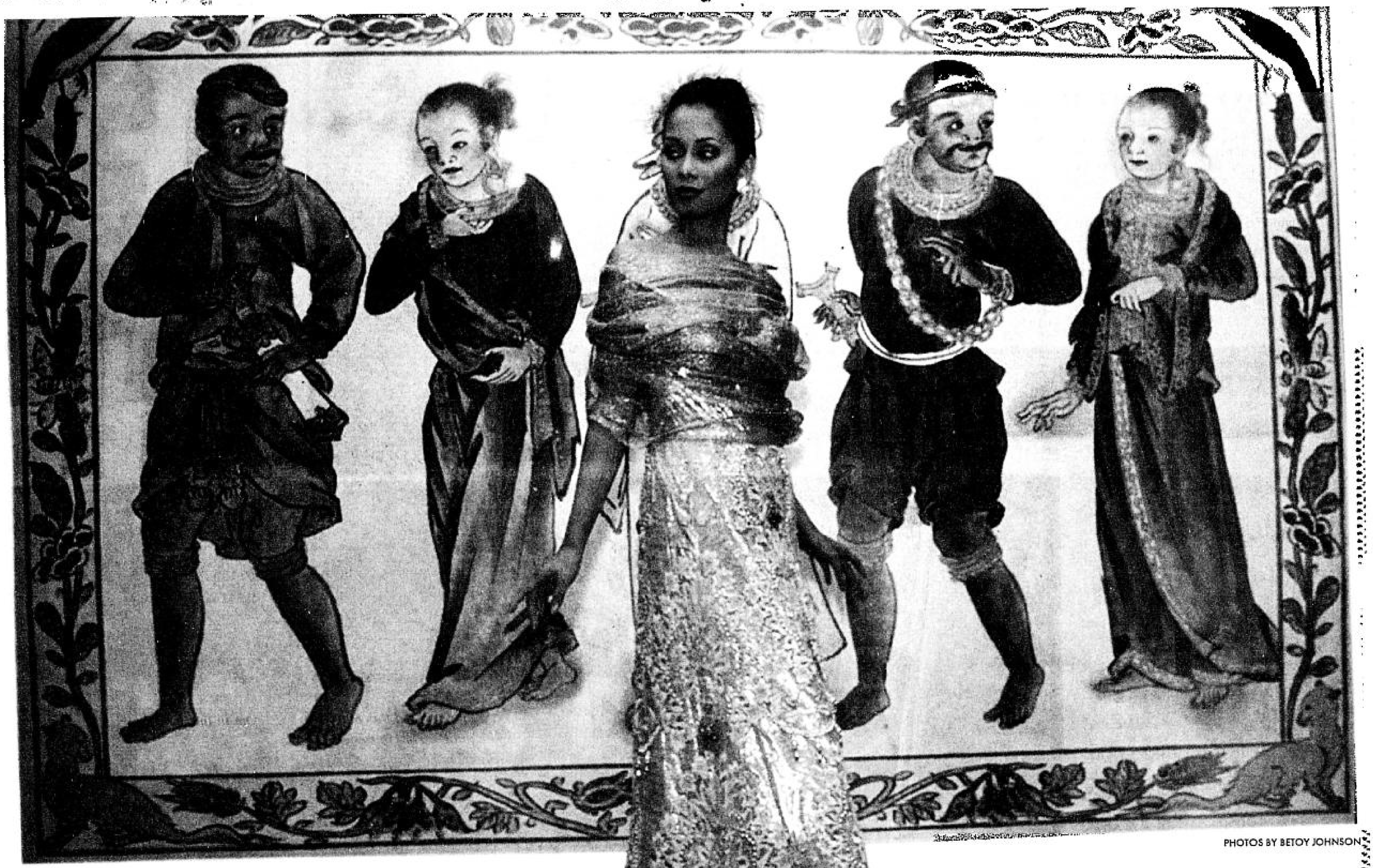
Available in shampoo and conditioner (100 and 200mL) and Intensive Conditioning Treatment (125g and 500g).

Watch out for the new Wella Balsam Shampoo with Natural Fruit Waxes Mall Tour at all SM Health & Beauty outlets from May 1- 31, 2001.

Health Beauty

WELLA

Beautiful hair needs an expert..



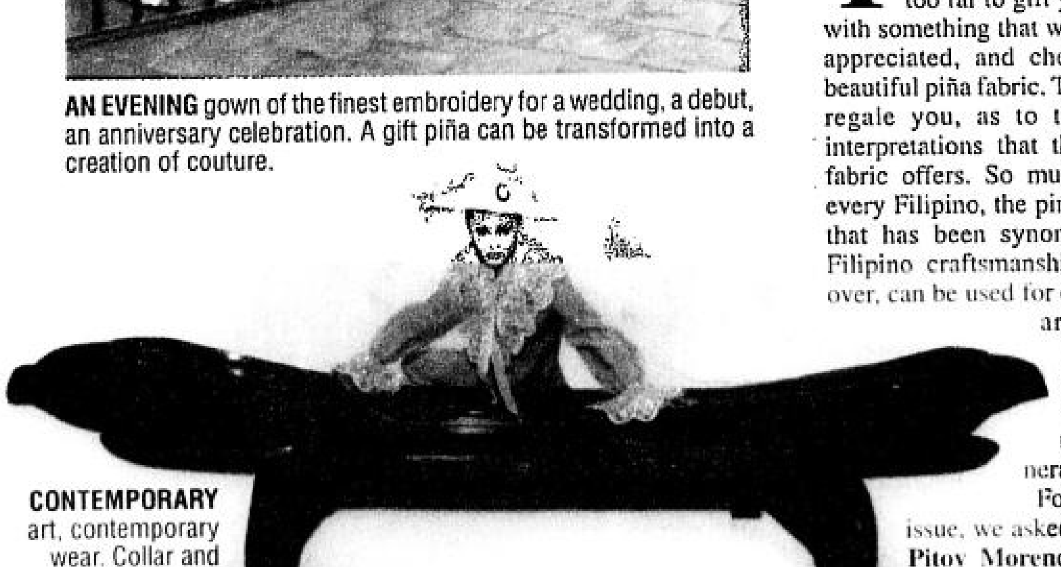
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

AGAINST a mural depicting early Philippine Fashion and Oriental influence, this resplendent gold lame gown shimmers with piña appliques that have been beaded with nacre and mother of pearl.

AN EVENING gown of the finest embroidery for a wedding, a debut, an anniversary celebration. A gift piña can be transformed into a creation of couture.

PAÑOLITO (napkin) shaped pineapple fiber hand embroidered and sewn together makes a beautiful skirt. Old portraits on the wall are ladies of last century in Maria Clara Piña fiber tops.

For Mom, Timeless Piña



CONTEMPORARY art, contemporary wear. Collar and cuffs are made of heavily embroidered piña.

FOR a more contemporary look piña against linen is unique and so Filipino.

MARICAR Balagtas is Miss Globe International.

TOMORROW is Mother's Day, and you need not look too far to gift your mothers with something that will always be appreciated, and cherished—our beautiful piña fabric. This page will regale you, as to the limitless interpretations that this exquisite fabric offers. So much a part of every Filipino, the pineapple fiber, that has been synonymous with Filipino craftsmanship the world over, can be used for creations that are timeless, that can be passed on from generation to generation.

For this special issue, we asked fashion czar **Pitoy Moreno** to dress up our most recent International Beauty Queen winner, **Maricar Balagtas**. **Maricar** is the first ever Asian to win the **Miss Globe International** title in Istanbul, Turkey, last April 10, 2001. The photographs were taken at the Metropolitan Museum where paintings and contemporary Philippine art are exhibited.

The svelte, 5-foot-8, 18-year-old beauty from Plaridel, Bulacan won over a field of 28 national representatives, including those from the Unites States, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Spain, and Brazil among others.

Maricar, who also won for the Philippines the "Best in National Costume" award, also led the other special awardees who included Hungary's **Anita Langi** and Grecian beauty **Maria Pastrafa**, named Miss Friendship and Miss Peace respectively.

Maricar was "Best in Swimsuit" during the Bb. Pilipinas Beauty Pageant held at the Araneta Coliseum.

Fifteen finalists were chosen by the organizers and judges, and although there was "no question and answer" during the finals, the Filipina winner said, "there was a lot of tension," following the close scrutiny by the more than 20 judges during the final portion which was covered by FTV (Fashion Television). As far as she could remember, **Ms Balagtas** said she did not cry when her name was called as the winner. "But I was numb and I prayed very hard with eyes closed during that decisive moment."

She was crowned by Mr. Ozgermi and the reigning Miss Globe from Venezuela.

The victory of **Maricar Balagtas** added her name to the enviable list of Filipina achievers in world beauty pageants, which includes **Ms Gloria Diaz** and **Ms Margie Moran**, Miss Universe 1969 and 1973; and **Ms Aurora Pijuan** and **Ms Melanie Marquez**, Miss International 1970 and 1979, respectively, and **Ms Joanne Quintas**, Miss Tourism-International 1997.

THE DALAGANG Bukid, piña top and a brightly checkered silk skirt. The patadyong, modernized, never looked so good!

FINELY embroidered for months, this piña veil will be a family heirloom. It can also be worn as a shawl that is beautiful against bare shoulders.

Poetry for Mom

There is an exceptional book of poetry written by Gil Yuzon. Samples of his poems are on this page. It will make a specially nice Mother's Day gift.

Advertising executive Gil Yuzon celebrated his 60th year, not in the usual way, but by launching his book of poetry, "Glimpses of Live, Life and Beyond," and inviting all his friends and associates from his earliest years up to the present, as well as personalities from the artistic and literary communities.

Venue for the launch was the ballroom of the Manila Polo Club, which was beautifully decked out like a garden by his wife, Sylvia, of Flowers of Sylvia. Copies of the book were presented to special guests Secretary Raul Roco (who, being out of the country, sent a representative) and Dr. Jaime Laya, chair of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). Gil also presented a copy to Fr. James B. Reuter, his long-time mentor.

The evening's program was highlighted by the soulful interpretation of Gil's musical composition, "Igagawa Kita ng Kanta," by singer Christine Carlos and a mini-concert by the Ateneo Alumni Glee Club, conducted by Dr. Francisco Feliciano and Fr. James Reuter.

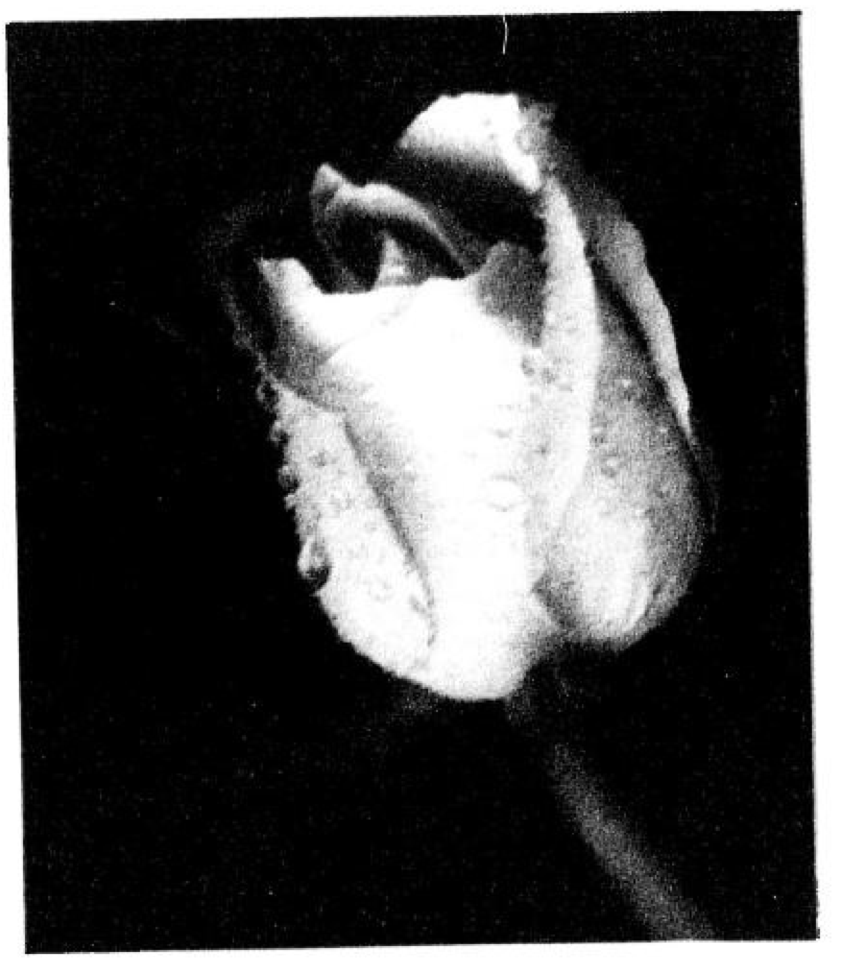
Proceeds from the sale of Gil's book will go to the V.A. Yuzon Foundation's continuing educational scholarship program and the Kabulusan II Preschool project for indigent children in Muntinlupa City.

Yuzon's book is in elegant coffeetable book form. He describes his work as "an attempt to express, in a concrete way, themes which have constantly challenged him." For those who would like to share Yuzon's poetic journey, call 8154938, 8156925 or EC 141-101758.

A Poem For Regina

why do children flock to
you so naturally?
is it because they see in
you a beautiful fairy
with a magic wandwho
can make their childish
dreams come true?

i can't figure out why
and i won't try
all i know is that with you
i too am a little child.



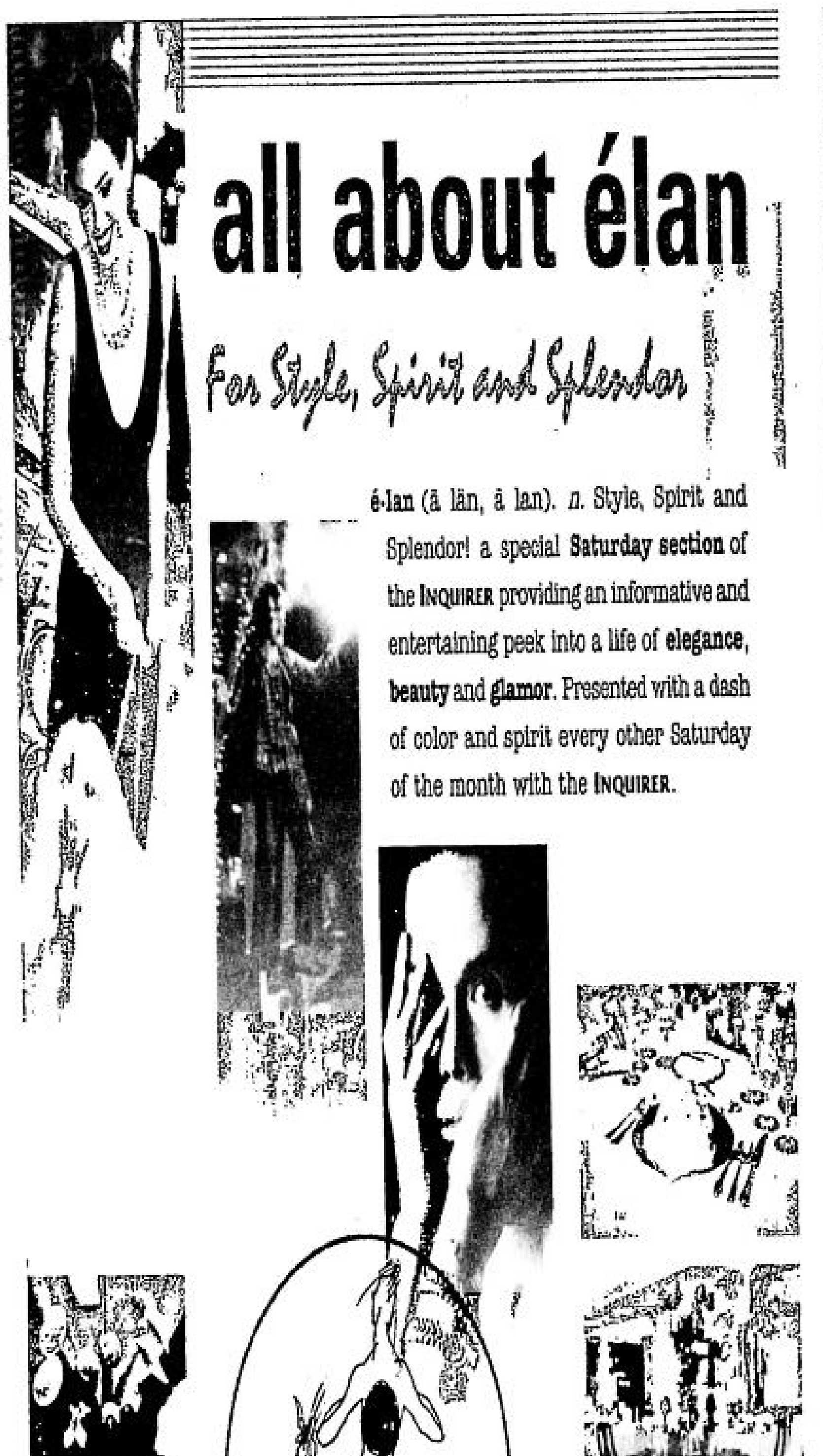
A May Verse

flower of may, newly blossomed
in the warm ablution of life-giving sunrays,
bless this field of dank grass with your scent of innocence

flower of may, dew-drenched petals
glistening in the dawn, stand chaste-white
against a dark-green sea of grass and weed

bloom in the world this maytime but bloom in this heart
till the final spring to sweeten my day,
to brighten my day, to brighten my way,

my radiant flower of may!



all about élan

For Style, Spirit and Splendor

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all about élan

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May 6 - Town Plaza, ALABANG TOWN CENTER (4-5 PM)
May 12 - Atrium, EVER GOTESCO ORTIGAS COMPLEX (3-4 PM)
May 13 - Atrium, ALI MALL, ARANETA CENTER (3-4 PM)
May 19 - Fountain Area Phase III, STA.LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL (3-4 PM)
May 20 - Entertainment Area, STORYLAND, SM CITY FAIRVIEW (3-4 PM)
May 26 - 2nd Level Carousel Court, FESTIVAL SUPERMALL, FILINVEST ALABANG (3-4 PM)
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(4) Winners will be drawn at the end of each event
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(6) Raffle entries for the day will not be used in the next venues. Next venue will require a new set of raffle entries
(7) A consumer may only win the gift pack once per venue; however, he/she may win a gift pack again in other venues
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let's talk

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3 tbsps. orange juice concentrate
2 large oranges, peeled & sectioned
3 tbsps. semi-sweet chocolate chips
2 tsps. butter

Combine cream and orange juice in a bowl. Divide into 4 serving plates. Arrange orange sections on top. Combine chocolate chips and butter. Melt over low heat. Drizzle over oranges and serve.
Serves: 4

Nestlé cream

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SATURDAY
MAY 12, 2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

S rday SPECIAL

NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND SICAM, Associate Editor

Treat of the Week

Nestlé cream

All eyes on Kidman as 'Moulin Rouge' opens Cannes filmfest

By Marc Burleigh

CANNES, France—The Cannes film festival began Wednesday with the world's show biz elite parading up the red carpet to see the opening film, "Moulin Rouge"—but all attention was focused on the movie's star, Nicole Kidman, and her real-life dramas.

> Her 'personal tragedy' has made her the festival's main event

Final touches

While organizers were putting the final touches to the cinema universe's main launchpad for the year's coming movies, journalists, film fans and even some of the 35,000 industry professionals arriving in the French Riviera were waiting to see how the Australian actress would handle the publicity after her split with Tom Cruise.

Kidman herself arrived Sunday and was holed up in an ultra-exclusive seaside resort hotel on the Cap d'Antibes peninsula, surrounded by Fox studio executives and well away from prying camera lenses.

One of several Australian journalists in Cannes, Helen McCabe of News Ltd. Australia, said the interest in "Moulin Rouge" was huge in itself, but Kidman's "personal tragedy" made her the main event.

When Kidman made her entrance, climbing the red-carpeted steps at Cannes last Wednesday, everything had been done to put "Moulin Rouge" to the fore: real can-can dancers lined the steps, and the main party after the festival's opening night dinner was a themed soiree promoting the film.

And then there will be the other stars, lending

ALL/p.D2

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Thank you Mommy... you touch my world with love.

Happy Mother's Day from Johnson's baby

Bernstein celebrates 50 years as a movie music maker

By Douglas J. Rowe

NEW YORK—Elmer Bernstein has written scores and scores of film scores:

The brawny, big-sky theme from "The Magnificent Seven" --probably the best known movie theme ever (especially to people old enough to remember Marlboro commercials). The violent, nerve-jangling jazz in "The Man With The Golden Arm." The heart-rending grace notes in "To Kill a Mockingbird." Even the music for such comedies as "Animal House" and "Airplane!"

Film festival

The 79-year-old composer, who's written more than 180 film scores, is celebrating a half-century as a movie music maker, and the U.S. Turner Classic Movies cable TV network is marking the anniversary with a 31-film festival throughout May, airing three or four each Wednesday and Friday in the United States.

Bernstein will be an occasional cohost with TCM's Robert Osborne, adding his personal insights on the films and his scores.

"Film music, properly done, should give the film a kind of emotional rail on which to ride," Bernstein said in a telephone interview from his Woodstock, New York, vacation home before heading to Atlanta, Georgia, to tape the TCM segments.

"It shouldn't be music heard in the sense of music heard in a concert hall, because the great thing about what it could do in a film is subtle. In other words, without even realizing that you're listening to music that's doing something to your emotions, you will have an emotional experience. Which is really the best function of film music."

In recent years, though, Bernstein believes that corporate greed has inflicted "inappropriate" music on the moviegoing public.

Look at the credits at the end of almost any film today, he suggests, and you'll see a list of songs constituting a CD the studios hope to sell.

"The only reason those things are there is not to heighten the emotional experience of the film; they're there with the hope of making a soundtrack that will make some money," said the 13-time Academy Award nominee, whose one Oscar win came for his "Thoroughly Modern Millie" score in 1968. (He was the awards show's musical arranger-conductor that year, so he had to relinquish his baton while he went up to get his trophy.)

Gangbusters

"Every once in a while it works gangbusters," he said, citing last year's Coen brothers movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou?"

"That score was just great, because it was appropriate."

And there's the rare instance of a score that doesn't seem appropriate but works, like 1967's "The Graduate."

"That score is full of great songs. Great songs! But they're great songs that didn't necessarily have to do with the action of the film," Bernstein observed.

He realizes that the modern effort to stuff films with songs to make a soundtrack that will sell comes partially from the fact that many moviegoers are young. "If you have to attract 14-year-old kids, you're gonna tend to want to give them the kind of music that they live with."

Undaunted by box-office demographics, the protean and prolific Bernstein says: "Music can have very many different uses."

When he approaches a film, he first thinks: "Why are we having music?"

Besides the essential emotional element, there's the "atmospheric" aspect. That came into play when he wrote "The Man With the Golden Arm" score, which was seen as a historic contribution to screen music.

Storytelling element

"Until now jazz has been used as a specialty or a culmination of a plot point," the Hollywood Reporter's Jack Moffitt wrote in his review of the 1955 film that starred Frank Sinatra as a junkie jazzman. "It remained for Bernstein to prove that it can be used as a sustained and continuous storytelling element in underscoring the mood elements of the picture."

In "The Magnificent Seven," the music does something different: energize. Next time you watch it, notice that the music is swelling while not much is going on.

And if it seems evocative of Aaron Copland, there's a good reason. "He was, in effect, my first teacher," said Bernstein, who was considered a musical genius at age 12.

TCM's tribute to Bernstein kicked off Wednesday night at 8 p.m. EDT (0000GMT) with "To Kill a Mockingbird," "Hud" and "Some Came Running."

The movies will be presented in themed evenings, such as "Early Elmer" on Friday, featuring his first film, 1951's "Saturday's Hero," and "The Man With the Golden Arm." Then there's "Elmer and the Duke" on May 11, featuring two movies starring John Wayne. May 16 will be "Magnificent Seven" night, and "The Great Escape" will be a part of "War Movies" night on May 25.

"I feel very honored by their interest in doing this," said Bernstein, who is also a five-time Grammy and two-time Tony nominee.

Major obstacles

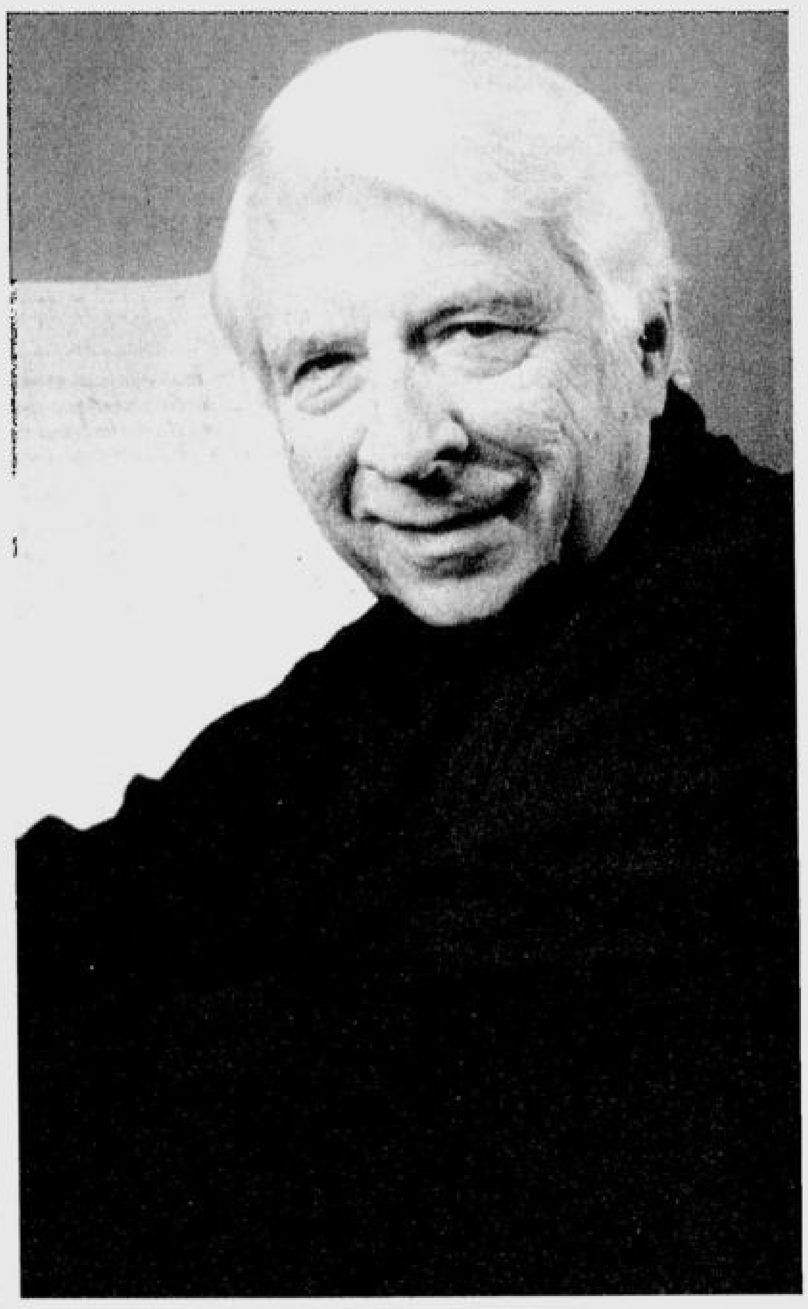
Along the way, Bernstein faced two major obstacles: typecasting (yes, he says, it happens to composers, too) and "gray-listing" during the McCarthy era.

He hurdled the first problem himself. After successful periods scoring Westerns and comedies, he purposely did movies with varied styles and subjects.

And he credits a Hollywood legend for helping him break out of the professional limbo he found himself in during the '50s, when he was accused of being a fellow traveler of the Communist Party. He was stuck working on such movies as "Robot Monster," "Cat Women of the Moon" and "Miss Robin Crusoe" when Cecil B. DeMille hired him for "The Ten Commandments."

Guinness record

Nearly a half-century later, Bernstein is starting to work on the score of Martin Scorsese's next movie, "Gangs of New York." The mere fact that he's still working, he laughs, is "a sort of Guinness World Book of Records situation." AP


BERNSTEIN. Has written more than 180 film scores.

Adventure marks the spot in canine comedy

WARNER Bros. spotlights comedy in a dog-gone adventure when David Arquette ("Scream" series) and Michael Clarke Duncan ("The Green Mile") run after the same crime-fighting dog in the hilarious family movie "Spot."

From the producers of "The Waterboy" and "Big Daddy," "Spot" also stars Leslie Bibb ("The Skulls") and new child wonder Angus T. Jones. John Whitesell (TV's "The Cosby Show") directs.

Defensive gadgetry

In the film, mail carrier Gordon (Arquette) prides himself on his ability to handle any canine crisis that might arise on his residential route. Gifted, alert and armed with specially designed defensive gadgetry, Gordon faces the enemy every day.

He is the anti-dog commando.

But the day he offers to babysit his beautiful neighbor's (Bibb) son, Gordon meets his match: a crime-fighting super dog that has just escaped from a witness protection program with local mobsters and his concerned owner, FBI agent Murdoch (Duncan), in hot pursuit.

When the runaway canine seeks refuge in Gordon's mail truck, it's the beginning of a wildly comic adventure that leads to some unexpected transformations for both man and dog.

"SPOT." A movie about finding your soul.

Producer Bob Simonds, who developed "Spot," had been looking for a project that might suit David Arquette.

"I've wanted to work with David for quite some time," says Simonds. "I thought he was phenomenal in 'Never Been Kissed.' He stole the show.

Physical comedy

"David is somebody who could essentially be the Buster Keaton of our generation, given the right movie," Simonds continues, "and I believe this is the movie. It's much more of a physical comedy than anything else that's in the marketplace."

"David has a great sense of physical adventure," agrees director John Whitesell. "He is a truly gifted physical comedian; he'll throw himself at anything bodily one hundred percent."

For Simonds, Whitesell was as obvious a choice to direct the film. "He is one of the top comedy people in the business," says Simonds. "He's the guy you go after if you want to get your pilot on the air. was really impressed with his take on comedy and also the way he talked about the script."

It was the script that first attracted Whitesell to the project. After the FBI repeatedly thwarts the plans of mob boss Sonny Talia (Paul Sorvino), thanks largely to the efforts of hot-shot canine Agent Eleven, Talia is determined to have his revenge and puts out a contract the dog, that is subsequently placed into a witness-protection program for his own safety.

Truck

When Talia's hit men try to kidnap the dog en route to its safe house, Agent Eleven is forced to take matters into his own paws and he ends up ducking for cover in the nearest available refuge—Gordon's truck.

"I thought it was a fantastic concept to have a dog going into witness protection," says Whitesell. "A mailman inadvertently adopts an FBI superdog in suburbia—what a great idea!

"I also jumped at the chance to do a big physical comedy that involved dogs and kids and a funny plot," Whitesell continues. "So many films are either just for teenagers or just for kids and their parents. We wanted to bridge that gap and make a film for all moviegoers."

Producer Bob Simonds predicted that "Spot" will be a movie for the whole family, and indeed, it is. "The movie is rated PG," he says. "We wanted it to be a movie that people will be eager to bring their kids to but also cool enough that it doesn't turn off a very discriminating teen audience."

David Arquette concurs. "It's clearly fun for the whole family," he says. "It has a lot of different elements, from silly to touching."

Essence

Whitesell concludes by describing what he considers to be the essence of the film. "I think it's ultimately a movie about finding your soul," he says.

"Gordon accepts responsibility and finds out what he really cares about. He finds that he's not afraid to have a child and a woman in his life that he can commit to. And the dog finds out that there is a family out there for him. I think it's about finding what you want and it's about commitment. That's what makes a family."

Staying true in a harsh and changing world

ACADEMY Award-winner Billy Bob Thornton ("Sting Blade") directs Oscar winning Matt Damon ("Good Will Hunting") and new screen sensation Penelope Cruz ("Woman On Top") in Columbia Pictures' highly-praised romantic drama "All the Pretty Horses."

Adapted for the screen by Academy Award-winning screenwriter Ted Tally ("The Silence of the Lambs") from Cormac McCarthy's best-selling novel, "All the Pretty Horses" will be shown at Glorietta 4 ArtFilm starting May 16.

Odyssey

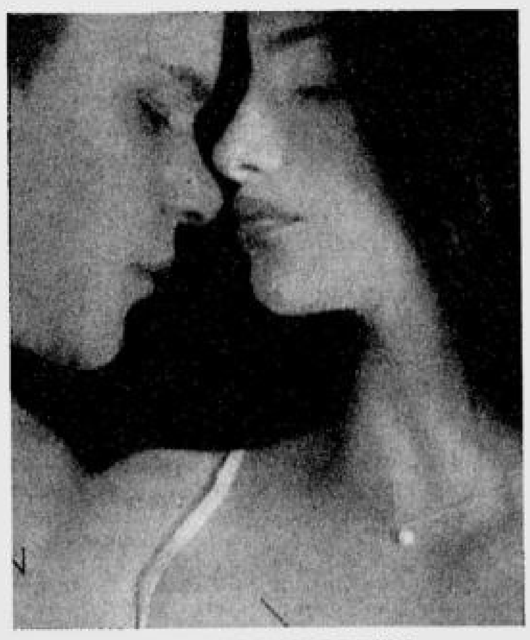
A sweeping odyssey about a young man's encounters with responsibility, love, revenge and survival, this is the tale of a young Texan named John Grady Cole (Damon), who finds himself a home after his mother sells the ranch where he spent his entire life.

Lured by the romance of the cowboy life South of the border, and the promise of a fresh start, Cole and his pal Lacey Rawlins (Henry Thomas) embark on the adventure they've always dreamed about.

As they make their way towards the Rio Grande and a land far from home, they cross paths with a volatile teenage misfit (Lucas Black)—an encounter that will precipitate much of the trouble that lies ahead.

Affair

Before long, Cole falls in love with the beautiful young daughter (Cruz) of a wealthy Mexican landowner, an affair forbidden by her family.


"ALL THE PRETTY HORSES." A young man's encounter with responsibility.

As Cole follows the wild path of his heart, he is led on a journey he could never have expected—a journey that will test his resilience, define his maturity and change his life forever.

John Grady Cole's epic odyssey—in which he travels from innocence to experience, from childish games to jeopardizing his life for love, from haunting evil to acting with honor—first came to the attention of the world in Cormac McCarthy's acclaimed, National Book Award-winning novel "All the Pretty Horses."

Examination

A classic hero's journey on the outside, McCarthy's tale was at it's a core stunning examination of a young man's coming-of-age—of friendship, loyalty, honor and most of all, staying true in a harsh and changing world.

Damon was blown away by the book. "I understood right away that the film could be really special," he says. "I felt that the character of John Grady Cole was that of a young person trying to figure out the world, a truly universal character. It drew me very strongly.

"And when I heard that Billy Bob was going to direct—that's when I became really excited and decided that I had to do this role."

All eyes on Kidman as 'Moulin Rouge' . . .

(From page D1)

Cannes the glamour on which it has built its reputation. Despite early reports to the contrary, the Riviera is to be home to many celebrities during the 12 days of the festival.

Special award

Melanie Griffith, who is to receive a special award, will be there with Spanish heartthrob husband Antonio Banderas. US actors John Malkovich, Billy Bob Thornton, Cameron Diaz and French actress Emmanuelle Beart, and US directors Quentin Tarantino, Sean Penn and David Lynch are all booked in as well.

British ex-Beatles singer Paul McCartney has reserved one of the most expensive hotel suites in Cannes for his visit, and there is some speculation that Angelina Jolie, Thornton's wife and star of the upcoming Hollywood blockbuster "Lara Croft", may turn up.

Away from the public's gaze there will also be the business side of Cannes, where thousands of producers, directors, screenwriters and publicity people from around the world get together to do deals.

Tourists

Asian film industry types have turned out in force, looking to capitalize on last year's hit, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

And then there will be the estimated 250,000 tourists, film buffs and locals who throng Cannes, trying to get into the star-studded parties which punctuate the event, or simply soaking up the atmosphere and sun along the palm-fringed beach.

For the organizers, though, the challenge is to balance the flashiness needed to attract the attention of the 4,000 journalists against the core value of Cannes: to present and reward films selected purely on their artistic merit.

This year's line-up in competition for the top Palme d'Or prize offers a range of features, from the rude and funny US animated film "Shrek" and "Moulin Rouge" and its love story revolving around a Paris cabaret in 1900, to darker fare such as Austria's "La Pianiste" (The Pianist) or Italy's "La Stanza del Figlio" (The Son's Room).

Japan is particularly well represented with three films, including "Akai Hashi Noshitano Nurui Mizu" (Tepid Water Under a Red Bridge) by two-times Cannes winner Imamura Shohei.

A jury headed by Norwegian actress and director Liv Ullmann is to make the tough choice for the prize-giving ceremony on May 20 to be hosted by British actress Charlotte Rampling. *AFP*

Objective reportage before entertainment on 'Saksi'

By Veron Dionisio

NEWS organizations have long been considered the mediators of political reality. Their agenda-setting power is unquestioned. They have the capability to shed light on the issues of the day. When TV news people frame events, they set what ought to be seen prominently on television screens and what needs to be relegated to the background.

Multitude

Their system creates images that may not constitute actual realities. When the camera begins to zoom into the face of a crying lady in a multitude of people participating in a rally, it humanizes the event, highlighting an experience as representation of the prevailing drama of life.

At times, this artistic or creative ploy appeals so much to the emotions that critical analysis of the implications of what is seen on the screen is lost in the ensuing drama.

That's why the achievement of true objectivity in presenting reality is problematic in the production of news on television. Nowadays, with the prevailing media culture among the viewers, entertainment plays a significant part in the presentation of news. From the use of sound bites, to hi-tech computer graphics, choice of anchorpersons, and the style of news delivery, it is deemed important to entertain viewers while they listen to the news. Is substance lost in the process?

Three elements

For the producers of the five-year-old early evening news program on GMA, "Saksi," there are three elements that they religiously adhere to: (1)fair presentation of opposing views on issues; (2)maintenance of the credibility of news sources and news anchorpersons; and (3)entertainment value, although this is the least of their considerations.

Says the program's executive producer, John Manalastas: "An effective news program must be able to give what the people want to know, what they need to know, and has some entertainment value. With "Saksi," it's more of what the people need to know delivered in a less restrictive way.

"It's like saying, okay we give you this but we have to make sure you also get *this*. Message has to be there all the time, we're very clear on that. We see to it that substance is never lost along the way."

He claims that it doesn't really matter if other networks scoop them on certain issues. If they think the credibility of the program would be jeopardized, they won't have second thoughts about "killing" certain news stories, even if it means being outdone by other networks.

"SAKSI" anchor Mike Enriquez.

"We've always been clear that we have social responsibilities. We're using airwaves which are supposed to be public properties, therefore, we have to bear the responsibilities that go with it," says Manalastas.

Pressure

In terms of gatekeeping, he affirms that he has yet to experience pressure from top management in the way they should handle the news.

The standard procedure in lining up news for "Saksi" starts with him. He makes a list of news stories, then submits it to the program unit manager, Luchi Cruz Valdez, for her comments. Then their OIC Marissa Flores gives her own views on the items. "It has always been a collaborative effort," he points out.

Vicky Morales, one of the program's anchors, agrees with Manalastas. "So far, there has never been much pressure in regards to editorial content," she confirms. But she hastens to add, "Well, when I was just starting, I would feel it. There would be some arguments on certain issues affecting major sponsors.

"But I'm glad we've matured a lot in this profession. We can now separate business interests from news—that they don't necessarily have to be tied together all the time."

Even with the changing of the guard at GMA, Vicky has never felt that they have to effect major reforms in terms of the program's editorial stand.

"That was one of our questions to the PLDT people when they assumed the major ownership of the network. Fortunately, they told us that they would maintain a hands-off policy when it came to handling the news," she reveals. ***(To be concluded)***

New stars on the rise in 'Pearl Harbor'

BECKINSALE. Plays a nurse in film world's latest war epic.

HARTNETT. Starred in "Here on Earth" opposite LeeLee Sobieski.

TWO rising young stars are sharing screen time with hot actor Ben Affleck in this summer's biggest film, the epic "Pearl Harbor." They are Josh Hartnett and Kate Beckinsale, who portray pilot Danny Walker and Navy nurse Evelyn Johnson, respectively.

Audiences might recognize relative newcomer Josh Hartnett from past films like the romantic drama "Here on Earth" opposite LeeLee Sobieski and the slasher hit "Halloween H20."

Biggest role

In his biggest role to date, he plays Rafe McCawley's (Affleck) best friend Danny Walker, a young pilot who has a personal sense of what war is even before the fight began. His father, a World War I veteran, suffered from his experience and Danny wants no part of that hell.

According to 22-year-old Hartnett, "It's strange to think that at my age I would have been one of the older pilots in my squadron. My great-uncle fought on D-Day and he was a ranking officer at 19. Most of these guys were younger than I am now, I wouldn't know where to begin to deal with

NEW STARS/p. D4

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The understanding you have shown
For all the tears that you wiped dry
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Activity booths open at 10:00 am.Variety shows starts at 4:00 pm.

DON'T MISS THIS GRAND CELEBRATION!

More celebrities join the political race

PUNO. Performance is what really counts.

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

ADD the names of actor Richard Gomez and newscaster Noli de Castro to the long list of candidates vying for different seats in the May 14 elections.

Inclusion

Ditto with Rico J. Puno, a reelectionist for councilor in the 1st district of Makati. Meanwhile, the list of Mother Lily's political bets has widened with the inclusion of former Secretary of Agriculture Edgardo Angara.

We asked Richard if we are eventually losing him to politics. He is the party-list representative of MAD, the acronym for Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga.

"Absolutely not. I will never abandon show biz because it is my means of livelihood. I hope to appear in one movie before the year ends," he said.

The actor is kept busy campaigning and has had to give up his sitcom "Richard Loves Lucy." He is being offered a new show that would deal with legal cases.

In real life, Richard is a fighter against all forms of drugs. A few years back, he directed a series of commercial ads against drugs, his gesture of generating public awareness on the dangers drugs bring to society. His involvement made him the role model when the MAD project was conceived.

As party list bet, Richard is focused on drug prevention and envisions a drug-free Philippines.

Surveys

Noli de Castro might well be called the female Loren Legarda. He has consistently topped all surveys being done on the senatoriables' relative popularity.

The former anchor of "TV Patrol" and "Magandang Gabi Bayan" admits he lacks the experience of a seasoned politician but nevertheless offers integrity and credibility as his major plus points.

Popularly known as "Kabayan," Noli is a multi-awarded radio commentator who does not merely read the news. He informs, provokes reaction and debate, gives insights and at times amuses. Fearless, focused and committed, he has received a number of prestigious awards from different award-giving bodies and non-govermental organizations.

Rico J. Puno entertains and serves his constituents at the same time. The first time he wooed the public, he had no idea whether the applause he got whenever he sang could be converted into votes. "I am glad they gave me the chance to prove my sincerity in helping them with their basic needs," he now says.

Performance

According to Rico, being an entertainer helps a lot but it should not be why people should vote for a candidate. "It is still your performance as a public servant that will matter most in the end," he points out.

Educator, legislator, banker, corporate lawyer, arts patron and weekend farmer, Edgardo Angara is man of many facets and pursuits.

He gained prominence during his stint as president of the University of Philippines from 1981 to 1987. During the turbulent years of his stewardship at UP, he not only defended the State University tradition of dissent but also significantly improved its financial and human resources.

Under his term, UP established stronger links with the business community and alumni organizations, both here and abroad.

As secretary of agriculture, Angara had been the chief steward in increasing production, expanding markets, correcting policy biases and promoting the cause of agriculture and fisheries.

Bridget Jones communes with fans via daily text messages

LONDON—First the book, then the film, now the text message.

Bridget Jones, the chain-smoking, weight-obsessed singleton conjured up by best-selling writer Helen Fielding, is set to commune with fans via daily text messages on the quest for inner poise, trim thighs and other key "global topics."

Human contact

For singletons like Bridget, the phone is becoming a major means of human contact, Fielding said in a statement. "Texting allows followers to hear from Bridget more often than they hear from some of their own friends."

Finnish wireless entertainment publisher Riot Entertainment said it launched the service last April 13 when the film version of Bridget's travails hit British cinema screens—under a two-year global deal with Fielding.

Last year, more than six billion individual messages were sent between mobile phones in Britain. Riot Entertainment says plenty of text messages will sign up for updates on Bridget's life and loves.

True to form, no messages will be too trivial. Calories eaten, drinks drunk, men snared and other such vital statistics will be relayed to mobile phone owners as content providers seek to tap into the booming market.

Next step

The "Bridget Jones" diaries, which began life as a newspaper column, were first tuned into a best-selling book and the film version, in which thoroughly British Bridget is played by Texan Renee Zellweger, has its premiere in London this week. Texting was the obvious next step.

"Texting allows one to be much more obsessive even than e-mail," Fielding said: "You can be in communication with significant others anytime and anywhere (or not, which can be heartbreaking and obviously requires major analysis and discussion through further texting)."

The service is to include personality tests, an "Ask Bridget" service, Bridget Jones's Guide To Life and discussion of dieting, dating, self-help and thigh circumference.

SMS junkie

"I have no doubt that after pioneering e-mail flirtation, Bridget has by now become an SMS (Short Message Service) junkie," Fielding added.

The service will target women in their late 20s and early 30s, as well as "curious men." Riot-E said 80 percent of this target audience were likely to be mobile users.

"Mobile phones are a perfect way to add another dimension to book characters such as Bridget," Riot–E CEO Jan Wellmann said. "Mobile is flexible, dynamic and has an immediacy which is not possible with any other medium. Bridget can text others to report on the progress of her bikini diet or other urgent matters." *Reuters*

ZELLWEGER. E-mail flirtation.

New . . .

(From page D3)

what they went through."

A favorite of the crew, Hartnett was a warm, welcome presence on set. He seemed to personify the ideal of the young soldier of the 1940s. "Josh is quiet but strong," says producer Jerry Bruckheimer. "He's a throwback to the old Hollywood legends, a cross between Gary Cooper and Montgomery Clift. He has a substantial role and we knew he could handle the burden, but he's very professional for someone so young."

History books

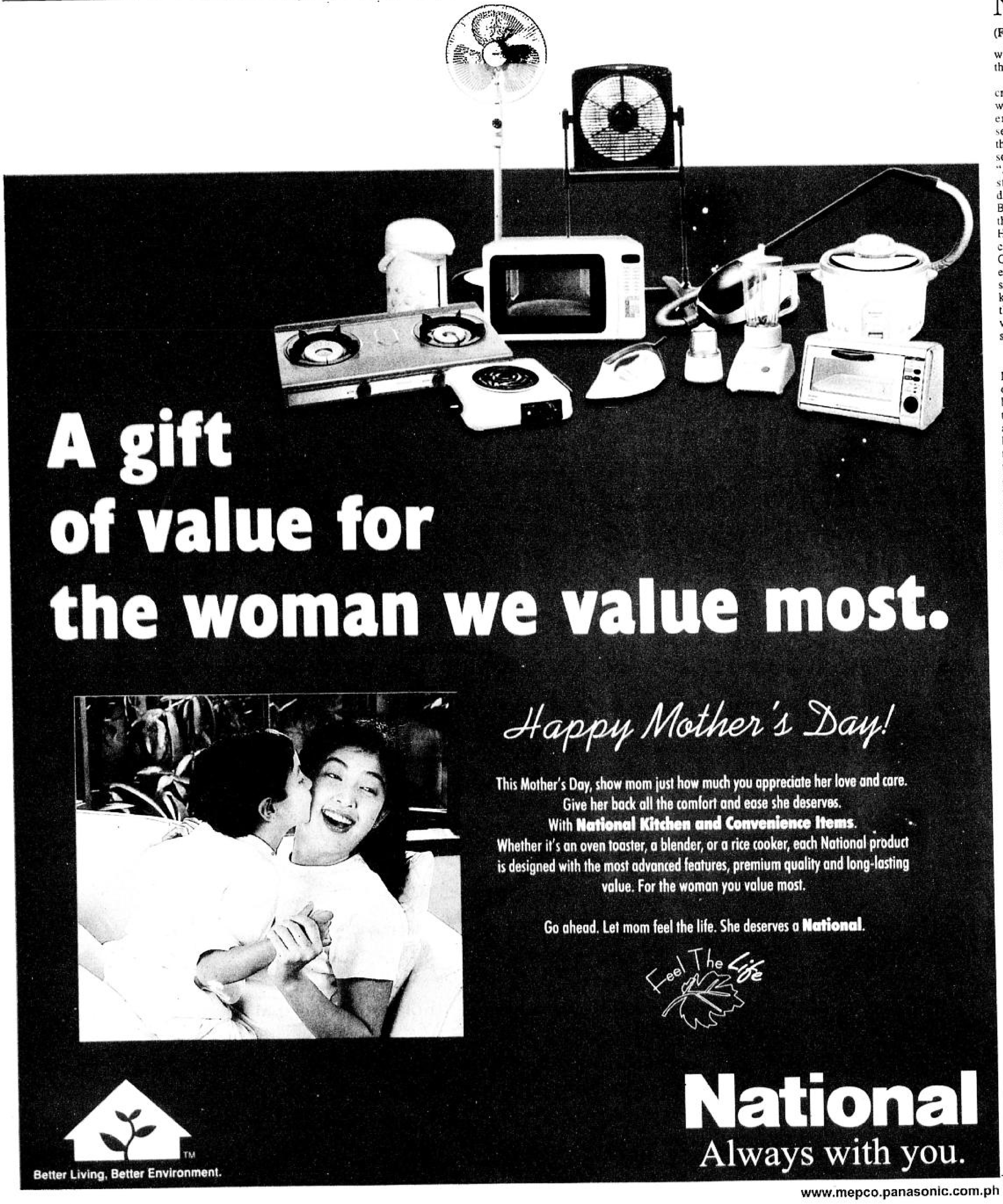
British actress Kate Beckinsale took on the role of Evelyn by delving into history books not only about Pearl Harbor, but also about the often-overlooked contributions of nurses. She also spent time with military nurses and was even able to practice a few procedures.

"When we were in Hawaii I was allowed to give some shots to people, not with drugs, just saline," Beckinsale reports. "So in the inoculation scene, there were some poor naked volunteer bottoms that I pierced. By the end of the scene I'd become really confident, but then the last one leapt into the air. They were really very brave," she laughs.

Both producer Bruckheimer and director Michael Bay wanted an actress with a certain charm and glamour for the role. "The thing I like about Kate is her universal appeal," says Bay.

"Women really like her, and it's so important that women like your female lead. She has a great innocence about her, but she also has great strength. I think that's what appeals to both men and women. She also has an incredible look for the period."

Beckinsale last starred in "The Golden Bowl" with Nick Nolte and Uma Thurman, and was seen recently in "Brokedown Palace" with Claire Danes. She made her film debut as the lovely and naive hero in Kenneth Branagh's "Much Ado About Nothing."



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Wolverine gets romantic in 'Someone Like You'

HUGH Jackman, the lean, 6'2" hunk who ably portrayed Wolverine in the box-office smash "X-Men" gets to show off his sweet, funny side in the romantic comedy "Someone Like You."

Fan mileage

The newest Australian import to shake up Hollywood gets remarkable fan mileage as Eddie, the bed-hopping playboy who befriends the broken-hearted Ashley Judd. Here he talks about the movie, being sexy and getting ready for the "X-Men" sequel. Q & A:

How does it feel to be playing a sexy part after doing Wolverine?

There is a similarity between them, a fierce independence. I don't think you ever feel Eddie will rip someone's head off or fight some bouncer. I think Eddie is more nonconfrontational. He talks a little more, which is kind of fun to play.

People also find Wolverine sexy.

It's the nature of the role. I think people who are confident, who are the kind of people who don't care what people think of them, they're just sexy.

Characters

As men, we like those characters, because you think, "I wish I was like that. I wish I had balls of steel like Eddie did." He doesn't have to worry about chat-up lines, he just goes there and says what it is.

Much is being made out of your bare-chested scene in the movie.

It's one scene in the movie where I wake up in the middle of the night with my shirt off. You see the trailer, you think I'm playing Tarzan. It's a bit embarrassing. I'm doing "Kate and Leopold" now. I lie down in bed beside Meg Ryan and the director James Mangold comes up to me between takes and says, "When you lie down, just take your shirt off. And before the take do a couple of ab crunches." I said "Shut up."

Wouldn't it be worse to be thought of as not sexy?

It does get a bit embarrassing. It's good when you're playing someone like Eddie. When I read the script, I thought, "He's a sexy guy."

It's got to work that way. I never really wanted it to appear that Eddie is the kind of guy who's at the gym and looks in the mirror and is a vain person. He's just who he is.

JACKMAN. The "X-Men" sequel is currently being shot.

Eddie is a New Yorker. Did you not think of turning him into an Australian living in New York?

He's a New Yorker and it is a very New York story. The director Tony Goldwyn said that the city is as important a character as any of the people, that whole mentality with the fast pace of "If you're not good for me, you're out."

New York accent

It was difficult to do a good New York accent though. I find 80 percent of an accent pretty easy and the last 20 percent difficult. You know what I mean? You get to sound fine but to get the specific sounds is difficult.

Ashley Judd does a split in her underwear.

She came up with that idea, like the day before, so it wasn't like I had time to get ready and look forward to it. All of a sudden, there she was and I was in my underwear and she was in hers and she was doing this cheer. It was an easy day's work.

Could you do it?

I don't think you'd want to see me do the splits. I'll tell you an embarrassing story about that scene. Men's underwear has a little slot in front, right? At the end of a take, it wasn't like I was hanging out, but the button had come off and it was hanging open. When I looked at it, I went "Woo!"

And I looked at Ashley and she's sort of looking around. I said, "Ashley, I'm sorry. Did you see?" She said, "What?" I said, "Nothing." And she said, "No what?"

Giggling

I said, "My fly is undone. Did you see everything that God gave me?" She said, "Not this time, but two takes before, I saw everything." I was little offended but she was giggling.

Would you rather be a romantic lead or a kick-ass hero?

It's vanilla and chocolate. They're both great and I'd like a taste. I can't really say. It's like asking me, "theater or film?"

Any news about the next "X-Men" flick?

We've started. Everyone, as far as I know is coming back. I'm thrilled to come back. There was so much at stake on the first one. It was my first job. I remember it took me six weeks to enjoy it, my first gig and I am in this $80 million picture, and of course, I'd never done anything like it.

I'd done movies, but I think $2 million was the biggest budget. On those sets, I'd be, "Can I have a chair?" Then I was in a trailer as big as my apartment in Melbourne.

For me personally, it will be great fun. The movie did well and more importantly, the fans embraced it. That's ultimately not going to mean commercial success for the sequel but when you have the fans behind you, you breathe a huge sign of relief.

The fans have really come around to seeing you play Wolverine.

Exactly. This guy in Bubby's restaurant in New York, he was the manager of the restaurant and he's Mr. Cool. He took off his shirt and he had the whole Wolverine tattooed on his back.

Necklace

He had a necklace with three claws hanging from it. He was shaking. He said, "I can't tell you how nervous I was. Meeting you has made my millennium."

Did he ask you to sign his back?

No, but my wife pulled out the camera and we got some photos.

How does your wife feel about being married to the hunk of the moment?

She's very down to earth. She knows the whole game. She once came to the set and I had a very raunchy scene. She came up to the girl I was doing the scene with and said, "I believe you're making out with my husband!"

And the girl, who was a day player, said, "Oh my God, I'm very embarrassed." My wife said, "What for? You're getting paid for it. Go have fun!"

'Live Show' fails to live up to its potential

BY AMETTA SUAREZ TAGUCHI

(Conclusion)

MOST of the hair-splitting conducted by our thinkers and leaders centers on the validity of explicit sex in a work of art. Most of them agree that graphic sex is valid if it is an integral part of the whole piece, not planted out of place and prolonged beyond what is necessary for the sake of titillation.

Topic

The defenders of "Live Show" claim that explicit sex is necessary throughout the work precisely because its topic is sex. In the critically-acclaimed movie, "The Piano," the topic is also sex and the movie includes frontal nudity. But unlike the sex scenes in "The Piano," the repetitive showing of the same *toro* act in "Live Show" does not develop and add complications to the conflict of the movie.

The *toro* performers do not exhibit any attitudinal change from *toro* to *toro* in a movie that is supposed to be powered by sex.

The only change wrought by sex that you see is in the sexual positions of the *toros* and *toreros*.

This begins to get boring even before the middle part of the movie and you comment, yawning, "The mating of animals on Discovery Channel is more interesting. Isn't there anything new in these *toros*?"

Sad to say, there is nothing new to sex, only in the passion of those who engage in it. The makers of "Live Show" should have tapped the passion of their characters to substantiate their claim to sex as a necessary device in their work.

Motive

In presenting cardboard characters that are only semi-alive in bed and out, and in writing a story that goes nowhere, the makers of "Live Show" make the viewer suspect that their motive is not really art but lucre.

Is "Live Show" alright for public viewing? I think there are times when the culture of the people must be taken into consideration.

Recently, for instance, I saw a documentary on the kind of children's cartoon shows being made and shown in Denmark. Though the USA is our paragon of democracy and freedom of expression, it bans these cartoons from its shores because they contain values that are not compatible with the culture of the American people.

One cartoon feature, for example, showed a father being taken out dead drunk from a bar and a single mother naked in bed, with tiny creatures climbing up her crotch. This is acceptable to the Danish people but not to Americans. Neither would it be acceptable here.

Though many of us pretend to be as "open-minded" as the Danes, in a true-to-life situation our reflex reveals that our history and culture have shaped us into a society that is not as homogeneous and "open-minded" as Denmark's.

Reflex

The controversy stirred up by "Live Show" is a sample of that reflex which supports the argument that, in the Philippines, there are limits to how much sex the movie-watching public can honestly take without feeling mixed-up.

It's a good thing that, unlike in suppressive states where "Baywatch" is blocked from cable TV, in condemning a movie our leaders only draw the line between art and pretending-to-be-art in deciding which side of a controversy has greater weight. Movies containing graphic sex like "Eyes Wide Shut" are approved when their artistic merit is clear.

Of course, there have been misses but the outcry of our local artists straightened them out. And the temptation of some prudes to censor is watched by activists.

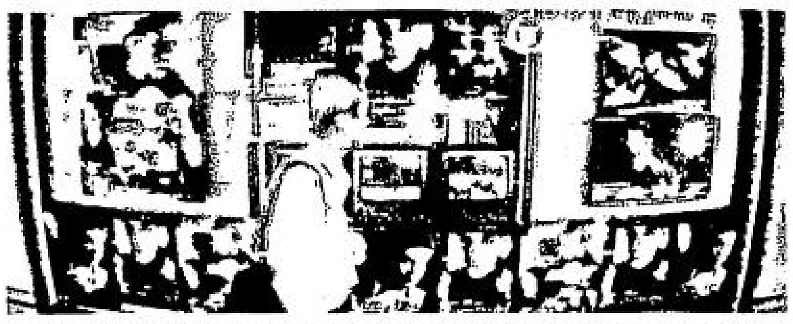
Public debate is allowed. So is the sale of x-rated tapes. Eureka, our government is not so bad, considering that we are not Danes!

Greater danger

But apart from Filipinos being splintered on the issue of how much sex may be permitted onscreen, the greater danger that "Live Show" really poses is its shallowness. Subliminally, it tells the audience: If you have a problem, it's the fault of society. In response, take the easy way out. Some well-paying jobs may be degrading but would you rather sell bananacue? Baby, your ultimate salvation is prostitution in Japan.

This superficiality is a greater moral assault than the sandwich, the helicopter and the other contortions depicted in "Live Show." It is for this reason that, uncut, this potboiler is too morally flawed for public viewing.

And now that it is available in videotapes, the viewer needs to be warned: "Live Show" is boring. I had to ask Enrico for a cup of coffee to stay awake.



A MALAYSIAN walks past a Hindi movie shop in downtown Kuala Lumpur. A leading group of Muslim clerics complains that Hindi movies are a corrupting influence on Malay Muslims and has urged the government to restrict the number shown. AP

Bollywood's song and dance upsets Malaysia's Muslim clerics

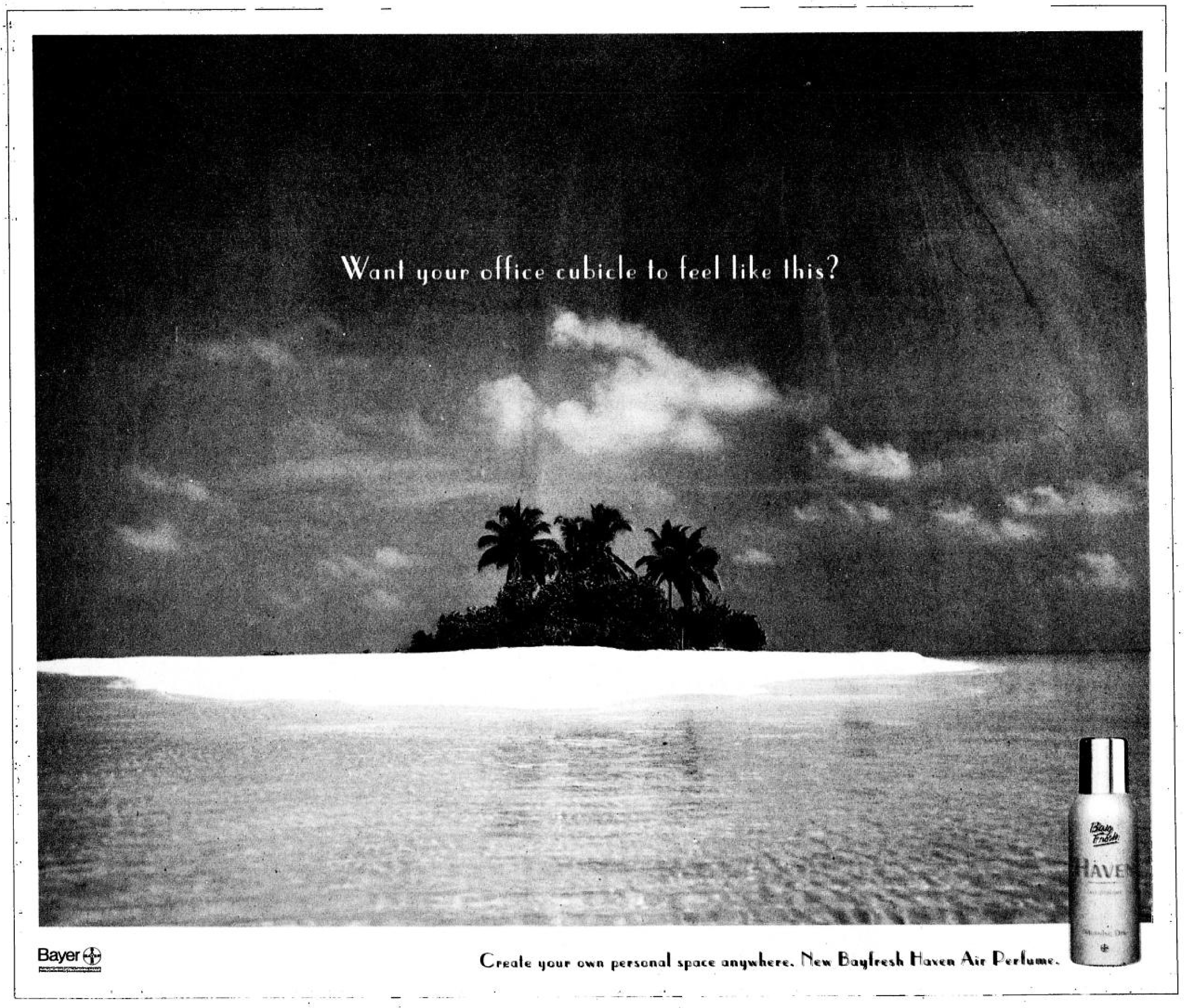
BY PAULINE JASUDASON

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—The film credits have rolled and the soundtrack's final strains are dying away, but Rosiah Biadi stays in her seat clinging to the fantasy world that has captivated her for three hours.

"That was good. The story was family centered. It was lovely," says Rosiah, 21, one of millions of Muslim Malays who are fans of movies from "Bollywood," the nickname for Bombay, India, the world's busiest film production center.

But some guardians of Islam in Malaysia don't share Rosiah's view that Bollywood films are harmless entertainment. A group of Muslim clerics complains Hindi movies are a corrupting influence on Malay Muslims and is campaign

BOLLYWOOD'S/ p.D6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Bollywood's song and dance upsets Malaysia's Muslim clerics

(From page D5)

ing for the government to restrict the number shown.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who has warned about other foreign threats to Malay culture and nominated some children's books, rap music and Internet pornography as three examples, has so far reacted coolly to the clerics' call. He suggested studies to investigate their worries before any action is taken to curb the movies.

But the idea has triggered a lively debate in newspaper opinion and letters pages, in living rooms and cineplexes, and has prompted one television station into self-censorship. Starting April 1, national network TV3 cut the number of Hindi movies it screens each week from four to one.

Ethnic Indians make up about 8 percent of Malaysia's 22 million people and are probably the reason Bollywood movies began to be shown in this Southeast Asian country in the 1950s. Malay Muslims are about 60 percent of the population, ethnic Chinese about 30 percent.

Balance

Malays are subject to Islamic laws, although largely secular laws are maintained for non-Muslims. The system has helped Mahathir maintain a balance among sometimes volatile ethnic groups during his nearly 20 years of mostly peaceful rule.

Bollywood turns out more than 800 films a year. They are generally formulaic and known for their high drama, comedy, romance and song-and-dance numbers—usually all in the same film.

Bollywood movies are much tamer than most mainstream Hollywood films, which are widely shown in Malaysia but only after being trimmed of sex scenes and swear words by government censors.

In one recent Hindi film, the hero and heroine croon a love song on a hilltop in Switzerland. The scene's climax is a kiss, but when it comes the smooch is shared from different sides of a glass window.

Bollywood fans are devoted. In Malaysia, three out of five people watch them on television, according to studies. New releases are given premiere treatment in suburban theaters, and newsstands are filled with Malay-language gossip magazines devoted to Indian actors.

Critics of Hindi movies contend they are eroding traditional Malay values and the teachings of Islam.

"An ustaz (religious instructor) imparts knowledge to children in a classroom, and his only materials are a book and a blackboard," said Zulkiple Abdul Ghani, an Islamic studies professor at the National University of Malaysia.

Lasting impression

"When the child goes home, he sits in front of a television and watches a Hindi movie for three hours. Which of the two do you think is likely to make a lasting impression?"

Harussani Zakaria, a member of the clerics group, the Malaysian Muftis council, complains that passion is portrayed in Hindi films in a way that could "arouse the viewers to unleash their desires even on their own children."

Others counter that Indian films are just one aspect of popular culture, the spread of which is impossible to stem in an Internet age.

"There are no black and white answers whether Bollywood exerts a negative influence," said Tripat Narayanan, a writer and film critic.

"It seems like an inane exercise (in) mindless entertainment, but it has appeal across a broad cultural spectrum the world over," she said.

Bollywood's influence doesn't appear to be a religious issue in South Asia, where tensions between Hindus and Muslims often erupt into violence. In India's part of Kashmir, the war-torn province where Muslims predominate, Muslims flock to the latest Hindi blockbuster.

Issue

At the cinema at the base of Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Towers, the world's tallest buildings, the issue has even some fans vexed.

"For us Muslims, we are taught to thank God in all things, good and bad," says Nik Rizal, a businessman waiting for an Indian feature to start. "But in some movies you see the Hindu characters scolding God, or challenging him. This may have a negative effect on our kids."

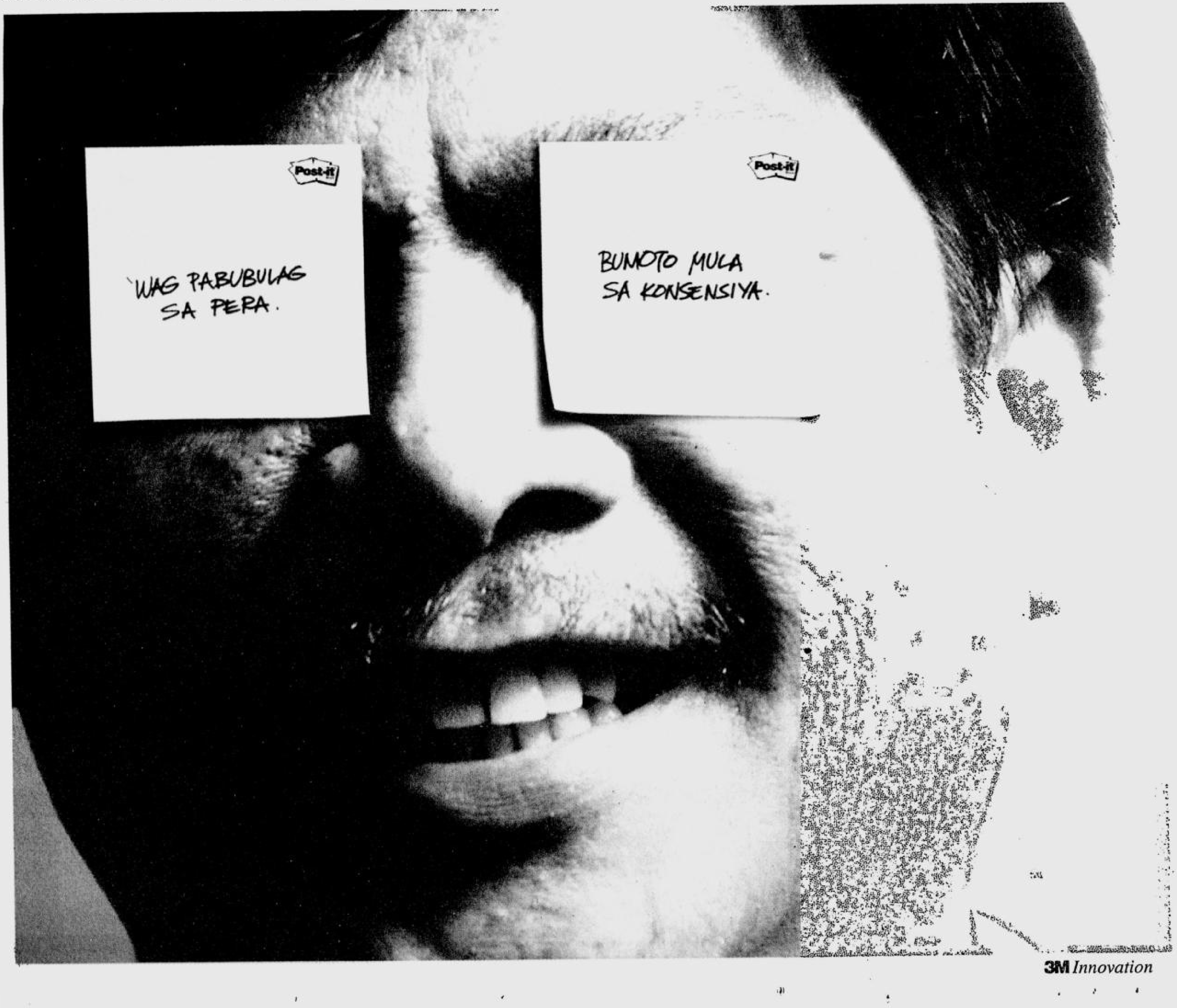
As he speaks, images of Indian star Rani Mukherji in a belly-revealing costume flash up on screen in a trailer.

"Besides, look at how sexy the women are," Nik says. "It's too much. I'd encourage censorship."

Then he settles back to watch Mukherji's latest film.

AP

A WORKER puts up a new Hindi movie poster on the wall in front of his shop in Kuala Lumpur.



A new breed of female icons

By Martha Irvine

CHICAGO—Move over Wonder Woman. There's a new generation of tough girl in town—and she's not taking any guff.

Tough-talking, take-charge female characters are tossing bad guys all over US movie and TV screens.

Aggressive behavior

Some wonder if they might be taking it a little far by emulating aggressive behavior traditionally associated with men. But young, female fans—the same ones who are excelling more than ever in the classroom and on the athletic field—seem to like their rough-and-tumble heroines just fine.

Laura Fong, a 14-year-old from Hazlet, New Jersey, thinks the characters are "clever" and "take action" when they need to.

Paula Garcia, in her first year at the University of California-Riverside, says they show that women can do pretty much anything, "even if it means saving the world."

And teens aren't the only ones who think so.

"It's a wholly positive change in my eyes," says Emily Donahue, a 26-year-old Boston, Massachusetts, resident who believes her generation, too, has been hungering for a new kind of role model.

"The Barbie doll or Cinderella image is no longer the goal, because girls are no longer concerned solely with 'looking pretty' or waiting for their prince to come."

Tough girl

The "tough girl" phenomenon isn't altogether new. Hard-nosed, women protagonists began emerging years ago in the "Alien" and "Terminator" films, and on US comedian Roseanne Barr's self-titled TV show.

"She broke every rule for how to be a 'good girl,' from not apologizing for being fat to making fun of men," says Kathleen Rowe Karlyn, a University of Oregon professor and author of "The Unruly Woman: Gender and the Genres of Laughter."

Today, strong female characters are even more popular, from the US TV series "Buffy, the Vampire Slayer" to the Powerpuff Girls, a trio of cartoon characters who giggle after walloping villains.

"Tomb Raider," set for release in June and starring Angelina Jolie, promises to bring yet another to the screen: Lara Croft, a British archaeologist, photojournalist and adventure-seeking globetrotter.

The trend has everyone from pop culture experts to merchandise marketers taking note.

"Ten years ago, it was more the waif—the skinny, soft, gentle girl with little makeup, almost unisex—that young girls were aspiring to be," says Cassie Ederer, vice president of youth strategy for Convergence Mediagroup, a San Francisco, California-based company that helps companies create products for young people.

Antithesis

"Now you look at it and it's almost the antithesis—it's healthy, strong, athletic."

But not everyone's convinced that women are being portrayed on equal footing with their male counterparts.

ANGELINA Jolie, as Lara Croft, is the latest tough girl in Tinseltown.

Consider the title character in the syndicated US TV series "Xena: Warrior Princess," which is about to end its six-year run.

She's tough and independent but also scantily clad, notes Sherrie Inness, author of the book "Tough Girls: Women Warriors and Wonder Women in Popular Culture."

And, she says, America still has a long way to go when it comes to accepting real-life women who take strong stands—Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton and former Attorney General Janet Reno, for example.

"Even their looks are disparaged," says Inness, an associate professor of English at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Sarah Mercer, a 16-year-old from Charlotte, North Carolina, has noticed that, too.

"It doesn't seem the same for men," she says. "It just seems like women have to work a lot more and be more manipulative to get power."

'Charlie's Angels'

Movies like "Charlie's Angels" don't help, she says, because they perpetuate her feeling that "pretty women get ahead quicker."

And there are other worries.

Timothy Shary, who studies youth images in film, says he was troubled when he watched "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"—a movie in which women warriors take the lead. The theater was full of young men who were "cheering on the girl-girl violence."

"There's a perversity to that on some level," says Shary, a professor at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. "It's relatively bloodless fighting, but it still hinges on an interesting drive toward physical violence and conflict."

Some wonder if such interest might encourage girls—already becoming more violent, according to US crime statistics—to be more aggressive.

Fong, the New Jersey teen, doesn't think so.

"I think in real life, girls are more interested in having friends and being accepted than being bullies," she says.

AP

The Cannes film festival on 9,000 euros a day

PARIS—Private jets, palatial villas, throaty sportscars and the sharp clink of champagne glasses. For the two weeks of the film festival, the display and dispensing of wealth in Cannes goes from old world discreet to spectacularly ostentatious.

Ordinary person

For the ordinary person looking for a hotel room, the prices tell the story: double the standard rate if you're lucky, the-sky's-the-limit if you booked last minute.

The Carlton Hotel, for instance, has its low-end offer at 360 euros ($330) a night—and at 7,300 euros ($6,600) at the top end. And, even at those prices, it's a full house.

The nearby Majestic, which practices similar pricing, says two-thirds of its guests during the festival are Americans, many of whom help swill the 8,000 bottles of champagne uncorked during the 12 days of the event, probably to help the digestion of the 350 kilograms (770 pounds) of foie gras consumed.

But the discerning tourist will quickly realize that the hotels in Cannes are just for the 4,000 journalists or the lower-to-medium rungs of the 35,000 film industry professionals in town.

The real residences of the star actors, directors and king dealmakers are found far away from the bustle and prying lenses of the town, either in the massive tinted-windowed yachts in the harbor, or in the luxury private villas looking over the Mediterranean.

Prices range greatly, but a budget of 122,000 euros for the two weeks would probably suffice for an 11-room mansionette with pool—if you could find one vacant.

The upmarket restaurants, which aren't cheap, even by deep-pocketed French Riviera standards, have already taken their reservations too, while the car hire places aren't shy to put a 2,300-euro-a-week fee on a—what else would you drive in Cannes?—Porsche Carrera.

Of course, to look the part on the drive between the hotel suite and the restaurant, one should be glittering like a star, which has the town's jewelers rubbing their hands with anticipation at the gem sales to come.

Excessive

For a hapless observer, the amount of money may seem excessive, but for the 12 days of the Cannes festival this orgy of conspicuous consumption provides a scene at least as fascinating as in one of the films being screened.

And that view, at least, is free.

AFP

Unsolicited advice to 'masa' voters

By Ramon Rey E. Bayron

LIKE it or not, reality bites. Come election day, the race still boils down to this: numbers. And, scary as it is to some, the *masa* still comprise the biggest number in this country. So, once again, it is they who will ultimately decide the fate of the nation. "Enlightened sectors" had this in mind when they spearheaded an all-out information and education campaign aimed at influencing the choices of this all-important group with the support of the most powerful media companies and personalities.

Dream dust

The results of the elections will show if their efforts succeeded but most of all, it will show whether media was able to undo what it has done to the voting public in elections past, blind them with so much dream dust that they took their reel heroes to the highest levels of public office.

So to our beloved *masa,* this writer offers some points for you to ponder on before you go to the polling precincts on Monday. This is not a campaign for or against anyone, especially in media, rather it is a reality check to see just how much dream dust still needs to be wiped away.

To the Bicolanos, Superstar Nora Aunor is asking you to trust the entire province on her capacity to govern. That is the office, Governor, and Governing is the job. Not the singing, not the acting. No frills, no gimmicks this time.

Trust her if you will but trust her because you think she *can* govern . . . the *entire* province. And when you do, this time, please believe her when she says that she is *not* a miracle worker: "*Walang himala.*"

In Batangas, the Vilmanians are looking for not just one but two government seats as reelectionist Mayor Vilma Santos of Lipa, Batangas is reportedly running unopposed, hopefully due to her commendable performance as town head during her first term. So that one is a done deal.

The other, Ate Vi and her legions are still working hard on even as you read this.The other seat is of national and not just local importance, the senator's chair, that will require the occupant mainly to enact bills for all of us, not just the *Lipaeños.*

AUNOR. No frills.

Reminder

But may we remind Vilmanians that Ate Vi is *not* running for senator although you often see her in a "senatorial" commercial. It is her husband, Ralph Recto, who is running for the position. *Ate Vi's* message to the fans on that commercial is simple and should have been understood by all as it is in the vernacular, and the message is this, "*Iboto natin si Ralph Recto kasi mula nang siya ang maging asawa ko, naging mas mabuti akong tao,*" or something to that effect.

Then there are the equally numerous Sharonians, one of whom proudly declared on national TV ("Probe Team," GMA 7), "*Iboboto ko si Kiko kasi asawa siya ni Sharon!*" Now, the Megastar should have enough humility in her to admit that said reasoning is not among the soundest, especially when it comes to making such an important choice as electing a senator of the land.

But then again, how have Sharon's choices been lately that they seem to be credible enough for her fans for them to follow suit? Let's see, she prefers Selecta over the other brand. Check. She rides the Superferry and not one has sunk so far. Check. She gulps Coke, Del Monte and Alaska, too. But then again, she prefers the imported burger over the local brand. What the heck, McDonald's french fries are better than others, so I forgive her.

Now, what do these things have to do with the elections? I have no idea. Nevertheless, I leave it to the Sharonians if they honestly think that the Megastar is making another good choice in Kiko Pangilinan as senator. For us non-fans, on the other hand, it is just consoling to know that it is Atty. Francis and not Gabby who's a shoo-in for senator.

Relief

It is a relief that other big stars have opted to keep their distance from politics, perhaps realizing that they could be of better service in their present field of endeavor. Imagine Judy Ann, Claudine and Angelika bringing their soap battle into politics . . . or their boyfriends, or would-be husbands! Or that Willie decides that he doesn't want to return as "MTB" host but prefers a seat in Congress! (I really have to renew my passport).

These stars who have rejected the temptation of using their popularity for selfish interests in politics deserve even more admiration, not just from the *masa* but from the entire Filipino nation. Because they "stepped back" from the political limelight, other less popular yet more qualified public servants hopefully might be given a chance to serve.

To the media personality candidates, winning the race is a little less difficult for you. May it mean that your victory is not just an assurance of your own continued fame but rather a victory over society's ills, which you will now be responsible for, to try and meet the hopes and expectations of the people who believed and trusted you, in reel and in real life.

To the media: May your struggle be beyond ratings and may you come up with shows that will fuel the growth of your gullible audience, not stunt them. And to the *masa,* to which this writer belongs, let us prove our critics wrong.

Simple lang tayong mag-isip pero hindi tayo tanga. Hindi nauuto. Hindi nagpapabola. Sino man ang iboboto natin, artista man o hindi, dati o bagong pulitiko, iboboto natin siya dahil siya ang tunay na gagawa ng mabuti para sa 'yo, sa 'yong pamilya at sa bayan.

The Credit Card Association of The Philippines and its programs for card members and its merchant partners

The Credit Card Association of the Philippines (CCAP) has been in existence for 20 years. From its incorporation in 1981 to date, the association has been consistently looking after the interest of both the consumers and the merchants. And with the emergence of Internet technology and e-commerce, the association is all geared up to meet the demands of these times.

The primary concern of the group is the establishment and maintenance of closer cooperation among card companies and hence, foster fellowship in the attainment of mutual and common interests. With the strength of 16 member card companies, the association is well on its way to realizing its objectives.

At present, the association is concerned with the following: the promotion of the use and acceptance of credit cards in the local, global and e-commerce settings; the increase in credit card availability to all who need and qualify for credit; the maximization and sustenance of sales of merchants that accept the cards; and the initiation of measures to ensure protection of the industry and partner members.

Merchant affiliation nationwide covers more than 30,000 business establishments and is expected to grow even wider this year. And with card base standing at 3.1 million and an industry value at P100 billion, the credit card industry is fast becoming a major industry in the country. CCAP is at the heart of this growing industry, functioning as a close partner to the member card companies and a vanguard of consumers' protection and best interest.

CCAP, in its effort to promote the best interests of both the consumers and its merchants, is pioneering the creation of a Credit Bureau Task Force. This task force is set to enhance the credit process by safeguarding the quality of the member's portfolio and assisting the formulation of the CCAP credit policies. Ultimately, the task force is formed to protect the members' exposure to bad debts and to provide sound credit risk management expertise to member banks.

Foremost among the concerns of CCAP is the fight against credit card fraud. This fraud can happen to anybody. The advances in technology at play in our businesses here in the Philippines as in abroad, have substantially reduced the incidence of fraud. However it is still a real and ever present danger that must be addressed.

In this regard, CCAP is setting up a Security and Risk Committee that will pursue a collective and coherent approach in combating card fraud through extensive merchant and consumer education program, law enforcement education, member education on current and latest risks trends, and timely information sharing and dissemination.

With the Internet and e-commerce revolution, the CCAP commits to playing an active role in promoting the use of credit cards in e-commerce and the Internet, while protecting its cardholders from any risks and issues that the new economy may bring.

As the demands for merchant and consumer friendly technology advances and evolves in this new millennium, CCAP is resolved to continue fighting the war against credit card fraud, setting the merchants' and consumers' protection and best interest above all else.

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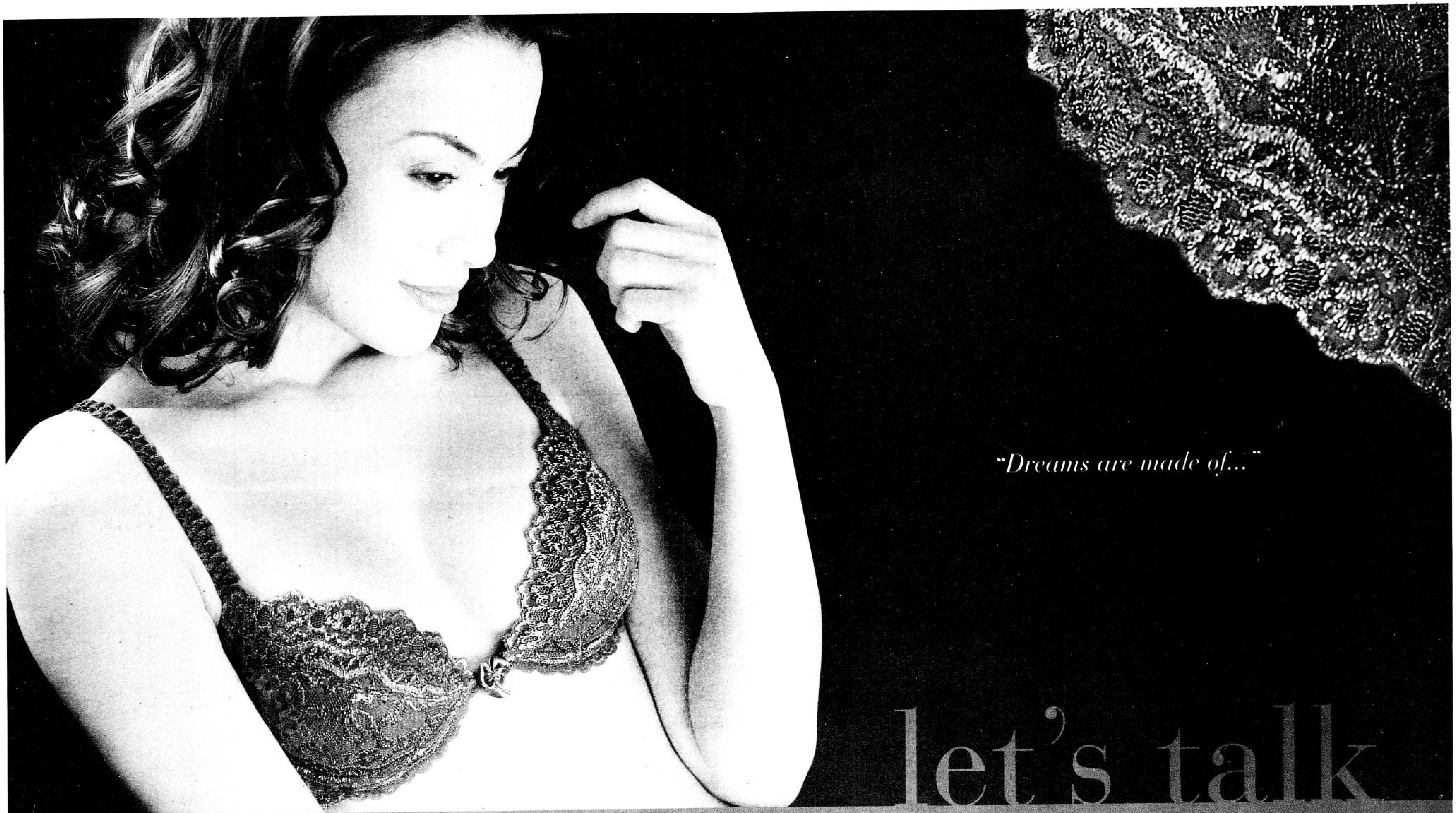

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COOPER. Among the first screen actors to "underplay" for the movie camera.

Gary Cooper honored on centenary of his birth

By Bob Thomas

LOS ANGELES—In 1961, Hollywood was surprised when the Motion Picture Academy's board gave Gary Cooper an honorary award for his long career.

Not that he didn't deserve it. But he had already won two Oscars as best actor, and honorary awards had traditionally been presented to those who had never received one.

The explanation came at the awards ceremonies that April 17. Jimmy Stewart accepted the Oscar and spoke directly to Cooper, who was watching the show at home.

"We're very, very proud of you, Coop," Stewart said, unable to hold back tears. "All of us are tremendously proud." He ended with a mournful "Aw, Coop."

Stunned audience

The black-tie audience was stunned. It was known that Cooper was ill, but few realized how dire his condition was. Two days later, his family announced that he had cancer. President Kennedy called. So did Cooper's hunting pal, Ernest Hemingway. On May 13 he was dead, six days after his 60th birthday.

Today, Gary Cooper is a faded name, except to those addicted to vintage movie channels. To their parents and grandparents, he was the great American hero, representing the United States to the world in the glory years of Hollywood movies.

The Academy celebrated the May 7 centennial of Cooper's birth with a symposium Thursday night that included Cooper's daughter, Maria Cooper Janis, and his colleagues Joan Leslie, Karl Malden and Frances Dee. The tribute will be repeated at New York's Museum of Modern Art on May 31. The Academy has assembled memorabilia that includes Cooper's saddle and chaps and one of his Oscars.

Among other observances: a film series at UCLA; a tribute at the film festival in Sun Valley, Idaho, where Cooper skied and palled with Hemingway; and a program at the American Museum of the Moving Image in New York.

Underplaying actor

Among silent screen stars, Cooper was the first to bring a new kind of film acting to talkies: underplaying. Silent film actors necessarily overacted because their work was in effect pantomime.

But Cooper's style was taciturn, low-key, quick to act when needed. He paved the way for a parade of strong and silent types, including Spencer Tracy, Humphrey Bogart, John Wayne and Gregory Peck.

What was Gary Cooper really like?

Not much different from his screen persona, said Joan Leslie, who played Gracie, the child bride of Alvin York in 1941's "Sergeant York."

"He was definitely a very shy person," Leslie commented. "I think he was happiest when he went off into the hills with (director) Howard Hawks to shoot skeet."

Monument of a man

She added: "I was 16 years old, and very new at Warner Bros. How would I talk to him, this very monument of a man? I had seen 'The Plainsman' 10 or 11 times. When I met him, he treated me as a little sister; he was kind and very informal.

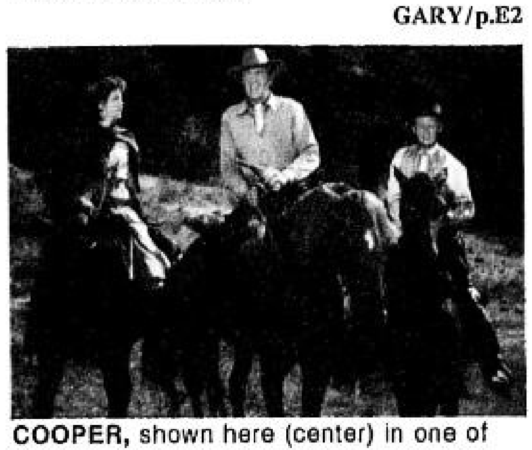
"I didn't know what to call him. 'Mr. Cooper' was much too formal, 'Gary' out of the question. When I met him on the set, he said, 'Well, howdy-do, Miss Gracie' with that exquisite smile that was so sincere, so delicious, just devastating. I responded: 'Well, Ah'm fine, Mistuh Alvin.' And we were Miss Gracie and Mistuh Alvin from then on."

Janis, author of "Gary Cooper Off Camera: A Daughter Remembers," agrees that her father was shy.

"He didn't need to be declamatory for his own sake, to prove that 'Hey, world, here I am!' That wasn't his nature," she observes. "He was very, very comfortable and content in his own skin. That permits one to step back and observe and listen."

Richard Schickel, a Time magazine film critic and historian who made a TV documentary about Cooper, analyzes the star's career:

GARY/p.E2



COOPER, shown here (center) in one of the many westerns he did, epitomized the tough, quiet men who opened up the American frontier to progress.

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June 8	Intermediate Balloon Bouquet	Aug. 24	Certified Balloon Artist (CBA) Review
June 22	Advance Classic Balloon Decor I	Oct. 18, 19 & 20	Advance Classic Balloon/ Sculptures/Balloon Drops
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Sylvia La Torre in concert of Filipino love songs

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FANS of Sylvia La Torre will be glad to know that the grand dame of Filipino love songs and comedy will be performing at 6:30 p.m., today, May 12, at the Baluarte de San Diego Gardens as part of the Intramuros Evenings performing arts series. (In case of rain, the venue will be the Casa Manila Teatrillo). Nolyn Cabahug is the guest singer, and the assisting pianist is Julie Mendoza.

Sylvia's concert repertoire includes "Madaling Araw," "Sa Bawat Sandali," "Ay! Kalisud," "Sa Kabukiran," "Bituing Marikit," "Matud Nila," "Minamahal Kita," "Maala-ala Mo Kaya," "Bakit Mo Ako Pinaluha," "Tanging Diyos Lamang," "Pobreng Alindahaw" and "Waray-Waray."

Sylvia is based in the States but has come to the Philippines for a number of engagements. Some months ago, a musical tribute was paid to her by De La Salle University, and she is also seen on TV.

Movie trailer premiered

On May 15, the teaser trailer of "Harry Potter and Sorcerer's Stone" will be premiered between 7 and 7:15 p.m. at SM Megamall and at Shangri-La Plaza between 7:30 and 7:45 p.m.

The premiere of a *trailer*? What's the big deal here? Well, for diehard Harry Potter devotees, even the trailer of any movie about their dear Harry *is* a big deal.

"Muggles" who can hardly wait for the movie to be shown in Manila will make it a point to catch these free trailer screenings.

Other trailer premieres: Sunday, May 20, from 11:45 a.m., to 12 noon at Ali Mall; Wednesday, May 30 at Robinsons Place and on Tuesday, June 5 at SM City Manila, both between 7 to 7:15 p.m.

When Warner Bros. released the trailer on the film's official website, *harrypotter.com* last March 1, more than 1.7 million people downloaded it on that day alone! Clearly, the film itself is going to get a rapturously enthusiastic reception when it finally opens in theaters.

Based on the popular book by JK Rowling, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" follows the exploits of an unwanted child named Harry Potter, who on his 11th birthday learns that he is the orphaned son of two powerful wizards—and that he has unique magical powers of his own!

Musical tribute to mothers

A special Mother's Day concert will be held today, May 12, at 8 p.m. at Shangri-La Plaza Mall's Cinema 1. The show, "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You?" is presented by the mall in cooperation with Huggies and Rado, and features Dulce, Butch Montejo, Anna Fegi and Michael Williams. Call 726-1968.

LA TORRE. Intramuros performance.

Included in the repertoire are songs like "When I Fall In Love," "Loving You," "I Wanna Spend My Lifetime Loving You," and "I Know I'll Never Love This Way Again."

The concert is produced by Admix, Inc. Tickets are available at the Shangri-La Plaza Ticketron. Ticketholders will get free coupons entitling them to discounts at some Shangri-La Plaza Mall shops, plus a chance to win a Rado ladies' watch and other prizes.

New shows on Channel 2

The 5:30 p.m. timeslot on Channel 2 now features a variety of program formats on separate evenings.

On Monday, the late-night magazine show, "The Correspondents" presents a 30-minute early edition. Later at 11:30 p.m., the longer edition of the program examines issues in greater detail. Hosts are Karen Davila and Mari Kaimo.

On Tuesday, "Mission X" presents Erwin Tulfo as the people's advocate as he exposes scams in different parts of the country.

On Wednesday, "Verum Est" (Latin for "Is This True?") deals with unexplained phenomena, some of which it seeks to demystify by placing them in the context of science. Tony Velasquez hosts the show.

On Thursday, "Pipol" with Ces Drilon focuses on the people behind the news.

And on Friday, "True Crime" has Gus Abelgas playing detective as he focuses on "famous" crimes. The show's longer edition airs at 11:30 p.m.

Precious lessons learned by celebrity mothers

RIVERA. Compassion.

LAXA. Humility.

REYNES. Patience.

BY JOCELYN VALLE

GIVING birth to a child after carrying him or her in the womb for nine months is just the beginning of a lifetime profession called motherhood. It's like working for a company that a woman expects to be paid by. But in being a mom, there are no time-ins, no time-outs, no holidays, no resignation and no salary increase. What mothers get instead are love, immeasurable gratitude and precious lessons.

What's the best lesson motherhood has taught some of the industry's lovely and loving mothers?

No love involved

"How to be compassionate," replies singer **Jamie Rivera**. "To be as humane as possible. Before, I used to see people just as ordinary human beings, there was no love involved. But now that I'm a mother, when I see my child, I realize that those people are children, too, of their parents. They also deserve the love you give to your child."

"I've learned to empathize," she adds. "Like with those (pro-Erap) people who went to Mendiola. They also deserve the love we gave to the People Power 2. *Lahat kasi 'yan ay may mga nanay na nag-aalaga sa kanila*. Mothers only want the best for their children."

Also a songwriter, Jamie intimates that her new outlook in life has influenced her compositions, notably the songs in her latest album, "Heal Our Land."

"Writing inspirational music goes hand in hand with the attitude I now have," she states. "As a mom, I see our country needing healing. If only people can see each other as children."

Jamie's darling daughter Reine is only four years old, but gradually, Jamie says, she's teaching her little one how to be compassionate. She also lets Reine speak her mind.

Only child

"But she knows she's an only child, *wala siyang kaagaw*," says Jamie, hoping for another blessing from God. "*Pero isa na lang. Mahirap ang panahon.*"

Former teen star **Manilyn Reynes** has a four-year-old son named Kyle. "Motherhood has taught me patience," she shares. "There's a lot of things that I would like to do with and give to him but I can't right away. So *kailangan talagang* patient *ka*.

"Patient *ka rin dapat sa kadaldalan ng bata*," she quips, musing that her husband, actor Aljon Jimenez, must also be practicing the virtue of patience when it comes to her being overprotective with Kyle.

The mainstay of "Sarap TV" and "The Body and the Guard" and the voice behind Ivory Records' "Once More" album relates that her work ethic has benefited from her personal life.

"*Kung* 100 percent patient *ako nung dalaga pa ako*," she says. "*Ngayon mas higit pa ang* patience *ko. Hindi na ako nagagalit. 'Yan na ang* approach *ko, nginingitian ko na lang*. Same with my dealing with people."

Manilyn would like Kyle to learn patience, too. Meantime, she marvels at his independence. "Now we can leave him in one place and he listens. He knows what to touch and what not to touch. He's into computer games but he also likes listening to educational tapes."

Maricel Laxa, who co-hosts Del Monte's cooking demo spot on Channel 7's "Eat Bulaga," declares that motherhood has taught her many lessons. "I have learned how to be humble," she says.

Wisdom in innocence

"Though I should know how to deal with my children, the reality is that I can also learn from them. I feel that I can learn more from them than I can teach them. There is wisdom in their innocence.

"I've also learned how to value God's creation," she continues. "Children's hearts are always forgiving, untainted and pure. As adults, we have biases, specially when we think we know what should be done."

Maricel adds that she also tries to teach those lessons to her kids—Ella, 4, Donny, 3, Hannah, 6 months (Benjamin will be born in August). Incidentally, Ella, Donny and Benjamin are named after Maricel's and her husband, former TV host and newscaster, Anthony Pangilinan's parents—mothers Emma and Angelina for Ella, fathers Donato and Antonio for Donny and Maricel's stepfather for Benjamin.

"We want to honor our parents," she explains. "We see in our children a new generation of our parents."

When she was still single, Maricel used to appear in comedies, dramas and sitcoms. But when she had Ella, she decided to focus on her family, turning down some offers to go back to mainstream show biz. The daughter of former actors Tony Ferrer and Imelda Ilanan deemed it wise to be with her kids fulltime.

The set-up has made Maricel both close and open to her little ones. "When I make mistakes, they always welcome my apologies," she points out. "So when they themselves make mistakes, they know that I will also welcome their apologies. They know that their mistakes won't lessen my love for them."

Maricel also encourages her kids to verbalize their feelings. "When they're angry," she says, "I help they say, 'I'm angry because . . . ' I believe that, more than the cognitive things, they have to learn the heart issues. I want them to have hearts that are soft and tender."

Her mothering style, Maricel stresses, is still reality-based. She recalls Ella asking her one day when they'd go to heaven because life here on earth wasn't so nice. "I told her that although the world is not so nice, it's still OK," she grins. "We can make it more livable."

At the same time, Maricel is also a resolute mom. "I don't allow them to push me," she avers. "I give them freedom but there are limitations, too. We set the boundaries and then we give them freedom. Then again, it also depends on the age of the child."

Grace

Christian artist **Felichi Pangilinan**, who's slated to record a concept album, shares that motherhood reminds her that she's not perfect. "As a mother, you're called on to do some sacrifices," she elucidates. "Some of these you're willing to do and some, you're not. I realized I needed grace. That's why we put a lot of time in developing our relationship with God. That's where I get my strength."

Being a mom likewise gives Felichi a glimpse of the parent side of God. "I love my children but He loves them so much more," she enthuses. "They depend on me for everything but I'm amazed that God also asks that dependence from us. He wants us to be like children, too."

Having Talitha, 7, Joshua, 5 and a soon-to-be born daughter (though mommy has likewise reserved a masculine name), Felichi happily reports, makes her understand how God feels for His children. "Regardless of what you're doing, your children come to you, but don't reject them. *Ganoon din Siya.* He also finds pleasure in our company."

Felichi's decision to home-school Talitha and Joshua was formed even before she became a mother. "I've always believed that it's necessary for children to see their moms not only as comforters and providers, but also as teachers," she points out. "If not, they will seek other people for advice. Home schooling also allows both mother and child to learn together."

Pastries, tartlets and éclairs

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

GOOD pastries are hard to come by. I guess my exposure to the delicious pastries of Paris has somehow influenced my standards. It was there where I learned about the Napoleon—a layered flaked pastry with crème Anglais in between and topped with creamed sugar and chocolate.

Better version

I also discovered a better version of our cream puff called éclair. Shaped longer, éclairs come in a variety of flavored toppings. Also filled with crème Anglais, they taste heavenly.

I also love the Tarte Tatin, a carmelized French apple pie with a crust and baked up side down. Warm with cheese, it's a winner. The Pain Chocolat, a croissant with a chocolate strip, is also yummy.

I would dream about these pastries once in a while and occasionally try decent versions from different sources.

One badminton day last week, Rossana walked in with a box of mango tarts. This is a regular occurrence with my group, someone always brings food. You sometimes wonder if it is an eating or badminton group. Anyway, whoever ordered that box had no choice but to share.

Discovery

These are mini mango tartlets baked in a slightly sweet crust with cream and topped with fresh mango and covered with a nice, sweet glaze. What a discovery! They reminded me of the Mango Tart of Sunny Bakeshop. Delicious!

The mini tarts are so good, you pop them in like they're pica-pica. A name on the box indicated that whoever makes them accepts orders. That box created a frenzy and everyone started ordering.

When the orders came in after a few days, Rossana brought another carton, this time a box of French chocolate éclairs. I flipped when I tried them.

Delicious cream

These were two-inch pastries stuffed with a delicious cream and topped with chocolate. Fantastic! They brought back memories of the patisseries in the French capital. Again, she got swarmed with orders. She claims to also have delicious cheese rolls.

Today, Rossana comes to deliver and hardly has time to play badminton. And because of her, we all have to exercise more to compensate for eating all those yummy pastries.

So, if you're on a diet, stay away. But if you're like me, you'll find a way to justify trying something as delicious as these chilled pastries, mango tartlets and chocolate éclairs.

Happy Eating!

For orders, call Successories Bakeshop Tel. 415-6880, 721-2890. 24-C Benitez st., Quezon City.

Gary Cooper . . .

(From page E1)

"Like all actors of his style, he was unappreciated at the time.

It became a cliche: 'He played himself' . . . He did just naturally what other actors had to work like dogs to do, which is to appear completely realistic."

Political cartoonist

Frank James Cooper was born in Helena, Mont., but he was no prairie cowpoke. His father served as a justice of the state supreme court, and Frank attended grammar school in England and two years at Iowa's Grinnell College. He took part in the campus drama club, yet yearned to be a political cartoonist.

In 1924, he moved to Los Angeles, hoping for work at a newspaper. Finding none, he took odd jobs until friends made connections with movie casting directors. Cooper worked as an extra in Westerns, played heavies in two-reelers, and finally drew notice as the second lead in 1926's "The Winning of Barbara Worth." Since there were other Frank Coopers in films at the time, his agent renamed him Gary, after her hometown in Indiana. *AP*

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SWITCHING CHANNELS

Vicky Morales to wed lawyer June 2

By Edmund L. Sicam

VICKY Morales won't be seen on GMA's "Saksi" starting late May but she hasn't been fired nor has she moved to "the other" network. Vicky is getting married on June 2, much to the disappointment of male viewers who find her attractive and intelligent.

The lucky man is Alfonso "King" Reyno, a lawyer, who also happens to be her neighbor in an exclusive subdivision. June 2 is a special day for them since they went on the Discovery Weekend the same date last year.

They have known each other for two years and Vicky, who like "King" is 31 years old, felt this year was the right time to get hitched. Although her ticking biological clock had something to do with her decision, the more important reason is that she had finally found the man she wants to spend the rest of her life with.

MORALES. The right time to get hitched.

DRILON. Has been with ABS for more than a decade.

He has a sense of humor and integrity, and they were brought up the same way, She says they are alike in many ways. So, in what ways are they *not* alike?

After a short pause, Vicky says her beau is a fast decision maker while she takes a long time to make up her mind. He is also very organized while she considers herself very "*kalat*"—sometimes.

Her future husband is very supportive of her career, driving her to the MRT station (yes, she takes the MRT to GMA, which is very close to the GMA-Kamuning stop) when traffic is really bad on Edsa. He also brings her to various locations when she has to interview people for her "I-Witness" program.

"King" has no problem about his future wife continuing to work after they're married. Vicky, who doesn't really need to work to support herself, enjoys her job and doesn't want to quit even when she already has kids to take care of.

Despite the fact that they belong to well-known families, the two have agreed to have only five sets of sponsors, mostly relatives, and President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is not one of them. The only celebrity in the group is Senator Franklin Drilon, who is a close friend of the groom's family.

The ceremony will take place at the Santuario de San Antonio in Makati while the reception will be held at the NBC tent in Fort Bonifacio. She has invited The Company to provide the musical numbers. Some 400 guests will be invited.

When we spoke to her, Vicky was worried because she had not yet gone to couturier Inno Sotto to fit her wedding gown. Like many couples today, Vicky and "King" have hired a professional coordinator to handle all the nitty-gritty involved in the important event. Unlike what happened with other couples like Boyet and Sandy or Aga and Charlene, Vicky says GMA will not air a special of the event.

Meantime, it's business as usual for Vicky, who, aside from anchoring "Saksi" also handles a monthly documentary for "I-Witness," something which takes her two weeks to complete. She intends to work hard on her shows even as the countdown has started for her big day.

'Verano' joins politics

Some people still call Phillip Salvador "Verano," his character in the popular GMA series with the same title, when he's out campaigning for vice mayor of Mandaluyong. He has to remind them that they cannot write Verano on the ballot because the only name that's registered with Comelec is Phillip "Ipe" Salvador.

Phillip says he has already met all 150,000 voters of Mandaluyong and is on the second leg of his sorties to shake hands with them all over again. He follows a punishing schedule every day. He is up at 8:30 a.m. to start his house-to-house campaign, then he mounts a stage in the evening to explain his programs along wit his mayoralty candidate, Bibot Domingo and the candidates for councilor. This lasts till the wee hours of the morning.

During the day, he has to attend caucuses to talk with his political leaders. In the process, he has to change his pants four times, his shirt, three times and he showers three times a day.

Phillip says this is the first time in his life that he has gotten close to the *masa*. As an actor, he would shoot in depressed areas but he never actually entered the homes near the place where he was shooting. The past weeks have been an eye-opener for him because he has gotten a first-hand look at what problems people face.

His platform of government will put emphasis on three things: peace and order, education and health.

Ces Drilon hosts talk show

"Pipol" host Ces Drilon admits, she almost left ABS-CBN when she failed to get the anchor slot of "Headline News" for the second time. It will be remembered that when "The World Tonight" was moved to cable, the network reformatted its late-night newscast and placed Korina Sanchez and Ted Failon as anchors. When the team-up didn't seem to work out, the two were reassigned and there was an opening for anchorpersons.

Ces felt that she was qualified for the position and was disappointed when Gel Santos Relos got the job instead. She recovered from that sad experience and concentrated on her business reports and the weekly "Pipol."

When Gel quit to join her husband in the US, Ces must have felt confident she was going to get it this time since she was the most senior among the news personalities in the network. She was wrong again: The slot went to Karen Davila, who was pirated by the network from rival GMA-7.

Traditionally, the anchor position was thought of as a reward for someone who had worked long and hard and proven her loyalty to the network. Ces has been with ABS for more than a decade, so when she wasn't named anchor for a second time, she felt really bad. This time, Ces seriously considered quitting and joining a regional news gathering organization in Asia.

Ces reconsidered when she analyzed her situation. She had been fixated on the idea of anchoring a newscast when there were many other things she could do to put her mark on the world of broadcast journalism. With her experience in the field and her special background in business reportage, there were still many attractive options open to her.

One such option opened up at ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) recently and Ces was happy to accept it. Last Monday at 11 p.m., Ces started hosting a daily late-night talk show that gives her a chance to display her interviewing capabilities. "Pointblank" will be aired live and feature news personalities involved in current issues.

Some have pointed out that Ces is not hard-hitting enough when she does interviews. She explains that the soft-sell approach has its advantages because she is able to draw out more from her subjects.

In her new show, which runs for half an hour, she will interview guests with different takes on a given issue. Because of the network's technical capability, she will be able to interview people in remote locations, not just in the studio.

Ces is confident that she will do a good job interviewing her guests because of her long experience talking to her many guests on "Pipol."

Where celebrities live out their summer dreams

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

SUMMER gives us the perfect excuse to bum around, pig out and be playful and adventurous. Blame it on the heat and stress but people usually hie off to various vacation spots to chill or unwind. Ditto for celebrities who look forward to out-of-town trips for introspection, fun and relaxation.

Bare essentials

Marvin Agustin likes to travel alone. He goes to Boracay to dive and sail. He also savors the experience of living in a *kubo* with just the bare essentials. "It's peaceful and relaxing. Sometimes it's good to reflect on the things you've done and the things that you still want to do," he intones.

Vanessa del Bianco and Myra Ruaro (*aka* Skarlet) of Brownbeat All Stars also head for Boracay to get away from their hectic schedules. But unlike Marvin, who indulges in sports, Vanessa and Myra enjoy frolicking in their bikinis to get the perfect tan.

Anggun wants to have a week-long vacation in an isolated island with all the luxury and convenience of staying in a hotel. "To own a desert island costs a lot of money. I'd ask my friend to allow me to stay on a private island. I want to be there with someone I love. To lie around and do nothing for a week would be good! I can't stand being on vacation for a long time. Lying around and doing nothing, on the eighth day, I'd be *so* bored."

Accessible

Dominic Ochoa wants to be accessible even if he gets away, so Punta Fuego in Nasugbu, Batangas is his favorite destination. He enjoys playing golf in the morning and chilling out with his friends at night. "I'm a simple person. Hanging out with my friends to drink or play golf makes me happy," he grins.

AGUSTIN. Likes to travel alone.

BONDOC. Not afraid of speed and heights.

Being near the water makes Aga Muhlach happy. He goes to Maya-Maya, Nasugbu, Batangas to relax and relieve himself of stress. "I have an affinity with water. I spent six days there during the Holy Week. *Kahit nasa banka ako at nasa gitna pa ito ng dagat, hindi ako takot tumalon,*" he recalls.

Onemig Bondoc is also fearless when he sees water. He indulges in jet-skiing and swimming. "I love beaches, I'm not afraid of speed and heights. I enjoy rock-climbing. Daring *ako!*" he says.

Agot Isidro-Sandejas has been to Paris and New York but likes Palawan best because it gives her the feeling of being in a different place. "*Maganda*, exotic, *parang wala ka sa Pilipinas,*" she smiles.

Cool climate

Ely Buendia (Eraserheads) does not indulge in rock-climbing when he goes to the mountains. He prefers the cool climate of Baguio to beaches. He believes that the weather is conducive for sleeping and composing.

Victor Neri feels that anywhere would be fine as long as it's quiet. When he's on vacation, he can play golf or hang out with his friends.

Touring makes it impossible for Texas to disappear and have a vacation. She considers having a quiet hotel room a blessing. "I'm normally just in bed (when I tour) because I have to wake up at seven in the morning to do interviews.

"There's a certain noise that comes with living in a hotel. It would be nice to have some peace and quiet sometimes. The guys in my band usually have a room close to mine and they make such an unbelievable amount of noise that I have to complain to the hotel to throw them out!"

Alfredo Lim is Manila's finest

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

OVER a week ago, about the time when people started flocking to the Edsa shrine to protest the arrest of former President Estrada, I found myself beating a path towards the opposite direction, southbound to Legaspi Towers, to the house of an equally controversial man, former Manila mayor Alfredo Lim, currently running for mayor anew in the same city.

Invited for dinner together with his radio co-host Kaye Dacer, I was warmly greeted by Mayor Lim dressed in simple shorts and short-sleeved polo.

Unimposing

As my eyes took in his place, I was surprised to find it unimposing, quite unlike its owner. Instead of the expected antiques or expensive furniture, the unit was "decorated" with campaign materials — posters, stacks of give-away shirts and leaflets.

His bedroom was as spare and unassuming as his living room, with lots of books and VHS tapes lying around. His unit has two windows overlooking the CCP and a view of Manila Bay, apparently his only "extravagance."

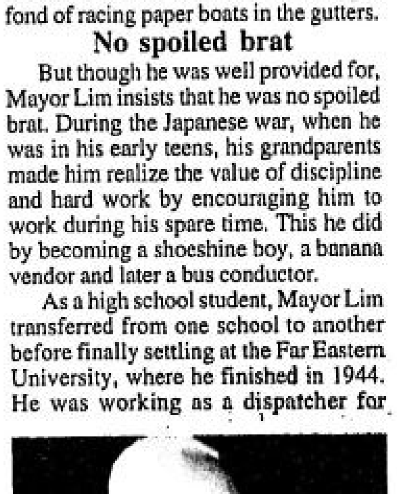
In the middle of the living room was his dining table, where fruits and a can of biscuits could be found. Over a simple dinner of *pancit* and *suman*, Kaye and I had a great time listening to Mayor Lim talk about his past as well as his current undertakings.

Though born in Tondo in the 1930s, Mayor Lim grew up with his maternal grandfather and grandmother in the Dapitan area, somewhere at the back of the University of Santo Tomas. The family's pet, Fred or Edo was raised somewhat affluently with his grandmother providing for everything he needed. As a child, he was the silent type, fond of racing paper boats in the gutters.

No spoiled brat

But though he was well provided for, Mayor Lim insists that he was no spoiled brat. During the Japanese war, when he was in his early teens, his grandparents made him realize the value of discipline and hard work by encouraging him to work during his spare time. This he did by becoming a shoeshine boy, a banana vendor and later a bus conductor.

As a high school student, Mayor Lim transferred from one school to another before finally settling at the Far Eastern University, where he finished in 1944. He was working as a dispatcher for Tabora Weaving Supply up to his first two years of college (at the University of the East). Even then, he already knew he wanted to become a policeman. As a child, his favorite reads had always been detective stories and police chronicles.



LIM. Unshakable convictions.

Temperament

And he had the temperament to match. Mayor Lim admits to being hot-headed as far as he can remember. "But only because I always want to get things done. I don't like standing around, putting things off or letting someone else act," he justified.

And since he was not afraid of speaking his mind, he feared no one and was incorruptible.

As a young student, Lim was brains and industry combined. Even then, many of his friends speculated that he'd probably turn out to become a mayor. Neither ambitious nor interested in politics, Lim always rebuked them, saying that the only thing he desired was to become a policeman, "one of Manila's Finest" he'd say.

As fate would have it, Mayor Lim was able to live out both dreams—and more. He entered the police force in 1951. His first beat was in San Nicolas, as part of the Detective Bureau, where he earned his stars for 15 years. Nothing and no one scared Lim. "As a rule I was always the first to enter the hideout of the enemy during operations," he said.

And he was the type who could not be bribed, either. Because criminals could not do anything with him (either by way of the gun or through money), Lim was dubbed "Dirty Harry." His fame in the department rose and he became lieutenant in five years' time, aside from being cited by the Jaycees as outstanding policeman in 1967.

Lawyer

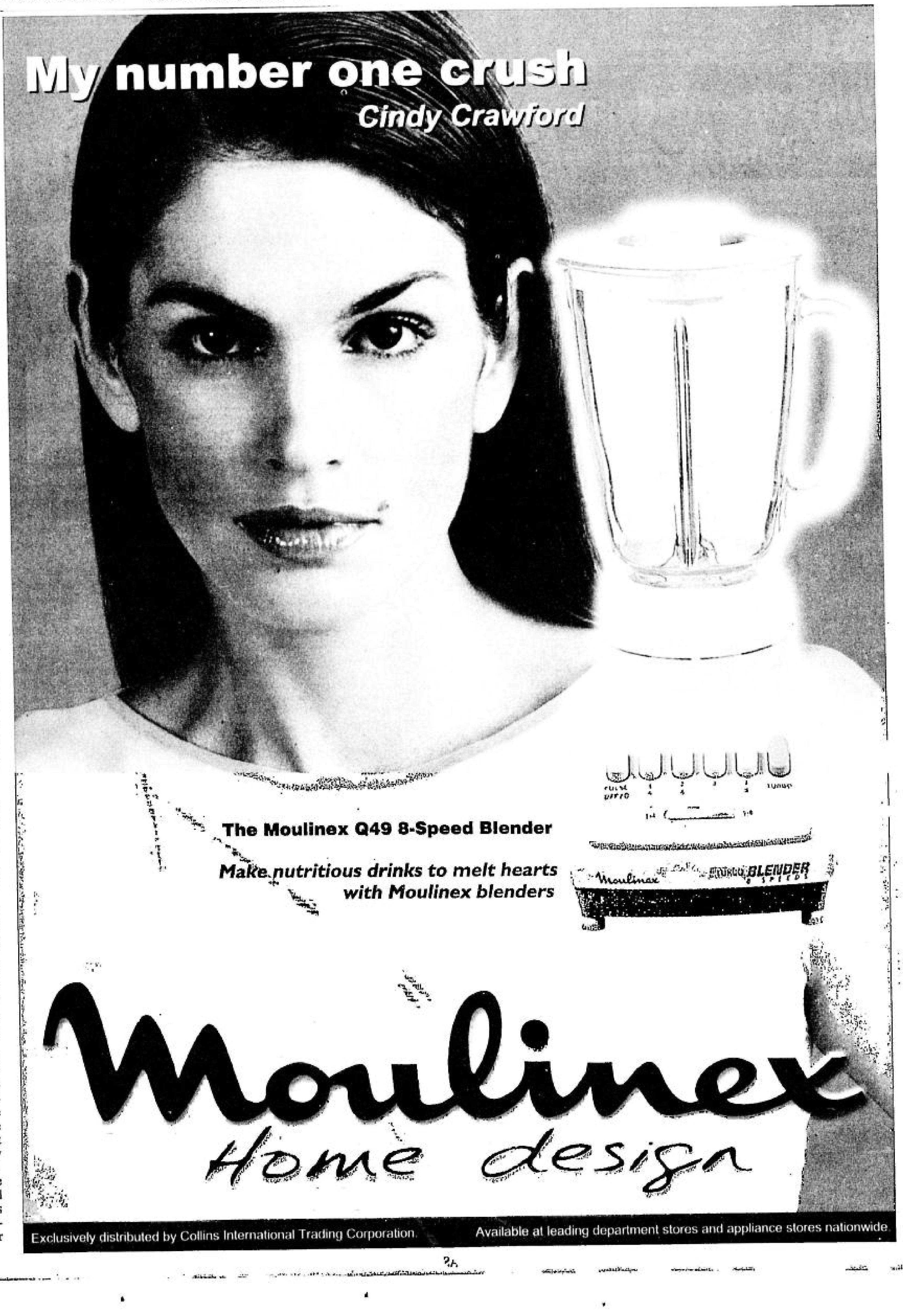
Later, he became a lawyer, director of the National Bureau of Investigation and then finally mayor of Manila.

As mayor, Lim cleaned and greened the city, rid Ermita of its red light districts, improved the Ospital ng Maynila and plugged for better education.

Lim time and again put his unshakable convictions to the test and emerged with flying colors when he got embroiled in the Manila Filmfest scam and when he went to the houses of suspected drug users and painted warnings on their doors. Even his winning the grand prize in the sweepstakes did not sweeten his task of probing into the institution (exposing people who rigged one of the previous draws, weeks after he himself won).

As a family man, Lim is a disciplinarian with a heart. Though his eight children grew up in Tondo, not one of them became good-for-nothing. When threats to their safety increased due to Lim's crime-busting ways, he sent his entire brood abroad, where they are to this day. A painful decision, indeed, but one that freed him to do his job without any personal considerations holding him down.

To say that Mayor Lim is a brave and honest man with convictions would be stating the obvious. A glance at his record as crime-buster would make anyone wonder how he managed to weather everything with nary a bruise!



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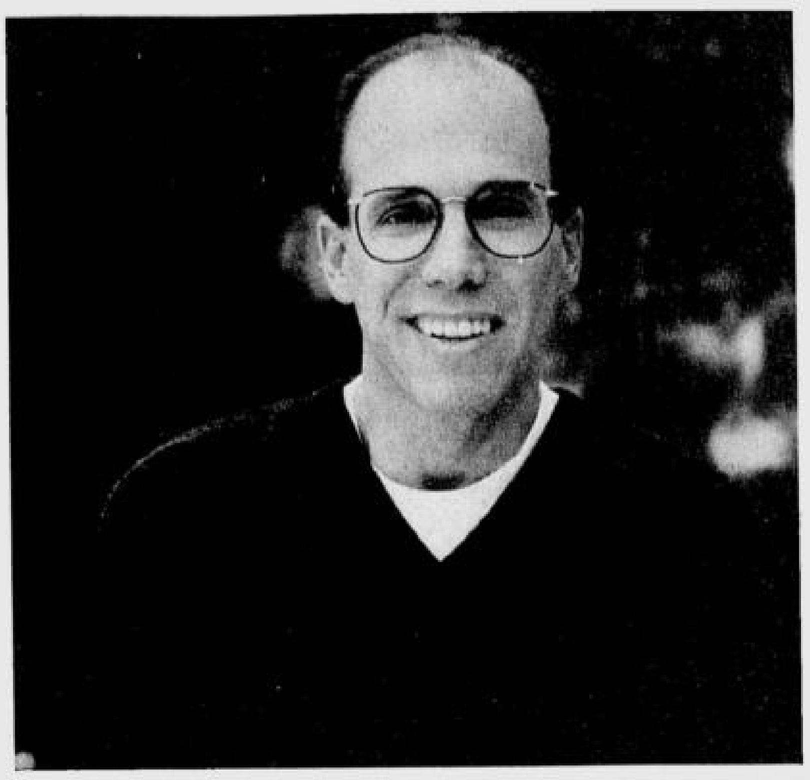
Hollywood writers, producers reach agreement



KATZENBERG. One of the producers who successfully worked out the new agreement with the writers' representatives.

LOS ANGELES—A newly-minted deal heading off a strike by Hollywood writers has given movie industry officials hope of success in upcoming negotiations with unionized actors and directors.

The looming writers' strike had threatened to interrupt production of scores of movies and popular television programming; the impact of the actors could be just as great.

Template

The actors and directors will have the writers' agreement to refer as a template in their negotiations: Hollywood writers reached a tentative agreement Friday last week on a new three-year contract, avoiding a strike that could have cost the entertainment industry billions of dollars.

The Writers Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) announced the deal after months of negotiations, and after agreeing to continue bargaining past the May 2 expiration of the old contract.

"This is one of the most difficult negotiations we have had in many years," AMPTP Nicholas Counter said at a news conference announcing the deal.

The studios had unanimously accepted the agreement, as did the writers' negotiating committee. The guild's 11,500 members are expected to vote to approve the new contract.

Guild secretary treasurer Michael Mahern called the deal—which gives members a $41-million increase over three years—"the best economic package for writers since 1977."

Writers will receive increased payments from video and DVD sales, and residuals when their work is rerun on cable television and in foreign markets, Mahern said.

"This will increase foreign residuals by $1.3 million over the term of the 2001 contract and will continue to grow over time," he told reporters.

Fox Television will also be considered a "network" for the first time, along with the "big three"—CBS, NBC and ABC—meaning it will pay writers 50 percent more than it currently does when it airs reruns.

Writers will also be allowed to visit sets, attend movie premieres and productions.

Representatives for both sides smiled and appeared relaxed as they emerged from negotiating rooms to announce the happy end to their marathon bargaining session that began April 17.

They were joined by top studio executives, including DreamWork's Jeffrey Katzenberg, Barry Meyer of Warner Brothers, Bob Iger of Walt Disney and Leslie Moonves of CBS television.

Growing pressure

Both sides had faced growing pressure to settle as the talks dragged on. Some 185,000 people, or five percent of the workforce, earn their livelihoods directly from Los Angeles' entertainment industry.

Last week Mayor Richard Riordan released a study predicting that 81,900 jobs and $6.9 billion could be lost in the Los Angeles area to a prolonged Hollywood strike.

The outcome of writers' talks is expected to set the tone for the upcoming negotiations of the 130,000-member Screen Actors Guild, whose own contract expires on June 30.

The possible work stoppage hung a cloud of uncertainty over Tinseltown. But shooting on movies and television shows continued as negotiators labored behind closed doors.

Television production would have been hit especially hard by a shutdown.

Lose-lose situation

"A strike is pretty much a lose-lose situation," writer John Vorhaus said Friday. "I haven't seen the agreement, but I imagine if it's being submitted to the membership by the union it is a pretty reasonable one."

Vorhaus—who has written scripts for TV shows "The Wonder Years," "Married with Children," and "Sentinel" along with movie screenplays—learned of the agreement while consulting in Los Angeles to Swedish television network TV4.

"From a personal point of view I was much more interested in the economic issues than the creative ones," he said. "I never considered the creative issues to be strike issues." *AFP*

Mitch Valdes at the peak of her powers

By Nestor U. Torre

THE MAJOR performances I associate with Mitch Valdes in my memory bank are led by her memorable portrayal of Katy dela Cruz in the original Filipino musical "Katy!" and her comic trick-or-treat bravura turns with Nanette Inventor in "Tit for Tat."

Salvo

Friday last week, I added another Mitch Marvel to my list—her "death-defying," two-and-a-half-hour solo comedy-musical salvo in "Mitching de Abanse" at Music Museum.

I've always admired Mitch's solo acts, but I must say that she surpassed herself that night, coming up with a breathtaking montage of her favorite talking, singing and spoofing points, as well as some novel take-offs on a number of new pet peeves and other love-hate targets.

From the time she literally swept onto the stage (with symbolically cleansing broom in hand), she never let up, coming up with one musical or comic salvo after another.

Master entertainer

Almost three hours later, she finally launched into her musical finale, and her audience rose to its feet in exuberant acknowledgement of a master entertainer at the peak of her powers.

Mitch Valdes has always been an exceptional performer, even when she twitteringly called herself Maya Valdes to jazz up her show biz image. Her combination of singing talent, comic ability and exuberant sexiness was hard to come by in these parts, so, ever since the '70s, she's always been in the public eye.

Quiet frenzy

But there was a quiet frenzy to Mitch's performances then that put some members of her audience on edge. Mitch now admits that she was secretly so terrified of performing in those early years that she had to get absolutely zonked with liquor and more to get through a show.

VALDES. "Death-defying" solo comedy-musical salvo at Music Museum.

Also, her drives, peeves and wants were so urgent that they sometimes made her shows come off as shrill and shallow.

But Mitch has triumphed over the negative factors in her life that threatened to drag her down, so her performance last May 4 felt wonderfully free, calm and truly insightful.

Tics

Gone were the tics that sometimes distracted, the subjective urgencies that occasionally made her comic diatribes come off as petty. In their place was the winning combination of Mitch's generous readiness to use her own life as the starting point for her comic forays into the national psyche (I can just hear Mitch whooping, "Wow, *bigat, pare!*").

But that's the nature of Mitch's brand of comedy these days—confessional, self-analytical, self-spoofing, so that she can earn our permission for her to spoof *us*, and our shared peculiarities.

Election fever

And Mitch now paints or doodles on an ever-widening canvas. Her show last weekend had election fever written all over its title, but the performance itself had little that was specifically political to it.

Instead, Mitch leapt from one topic to another—her childhood in Japan, her years as a convent-school "hostage" and "rebel," the winners and losers she's met in the biz, the tics and shticks that make the Filipino unique, "crazy" musical concepts that only she could pull off and make funny, an instant workshop on how different nationalities speak-etc!

Truth to tell, Mitch's show was great but about 30 minutes too long—but the audience gamely put up with her exuberance because they knew that it came from her love for them, and for performing.

The next time you hear that Mitch Valdes is putting up a show, make sure you catch it. Only months shy of her 50th birthday, she's never been better!

Behind-the scenes look at a concert tour

By Edmund L. Sicam

WHAT does it take to mount a concert tour? This ques tion came to mind when we watched Jaya perform in Davao City recently in the Crossover Live series.

The answers were provided by Chad Diaz, Crossover's manager for special events production. Since Jaya's concert was a repeat of her "Jaya on Fire" tour, the Davao gig was relatively easy to do.

Plywood boards

We stress the word *relatively*. For instance, when Martin Nievera did his Crossover concert at the Ultra, Chad had to rent plywood boards to cover the entire football field because management required that the grounds not be spoiled by the large audience.

So Chad looked for a supplier who provided 4,500 pieces of plywood! The cost: P500,000—but the plywood had to be returned to the supplier. If, by some fluke, all of that lumber went up in smoke, Crossover would have had to shoulder the total cost of the plywood: P 1.5 million. Luckily, no such disaster happened.

It took Chad two weeks to prepare for the Davao performance. As in past Crossover productions, all lighting and sound equipment, props, musicians, and most of the members of the crew were brought in from Manila.

The Villars, owners of the Crossover radio stations, have always believed in providing provincial audiences with the same quality of entertainment available in Manila. If that meant bringing in everything from Manila, then that's how it would be.

Container van

Chad shipped the equipment in two 40-foot container vans via WG&A, with whom the station has an exchange deal arrangement. For bigger concerts, he adds a 10-footer. The shipment included the different kinds of lighting equipment called intelligent lights (because they are programmed to turn on and move around), sound equipment, pyro effects, a fountain effect like the one we see on New Year's Eve, an air tube with different colors, 12 projectile cannons that rain confetti on the audience, 22 TV monitors for the vidiwall and other locations, and two TV cameras.

These had to be shipped two days before the show so they could arrive at the venue the day before the performance.

As far as manpower is concerned, Chad had to bring in 40 people, including musicians, back-up singers, dancers, a lighting director, sound technicians, stage mangers and security guards. Chad flew to Davao four days before the show to arrange lodging and food for the group, make sure the venue which was chosen earlier was ready, hire seven vans for transportation, and promote ticket sales (another group took care of soliciting sponsors).

Helping Chad with the many details involved in the production are four assistants.

Disco theater

For the Davao concert, Crossover could not get the big Bangko Sentral auditiorium, which could seat 5,000, because it was being renovated. So a disco theater called The Venue offered its services and promptly got the approval of the Villars and Chad. The seating capacity of the place is 1,500.

Chad also acts as paymaster for the entire production. Before any production is mounted, Chad presents a budget to the Villars and once it is approved, Chad takes over. He's the one who negotiates with the performers, the musical director, the band and everyone else on the show for their rates.

Since he uses the same people most of the time, this is no problem. The rates have already been set, so he just has to find out if they want cash or a check when they get paid.

For new productions, like the Lani Misalucha tour which is scheduled for later this year, Chad provides the artist with several choices for musical director, stage director, lighting director- i.e., the major creative people required for the show. Chad says they want the main performer to feel comfortable with the creative people around her.

Final note

When the final note is played, Chad's hope is that Davaoeños would talk about the event for a week, event longer. That's his gauge for whether a show is a success or not. While Chad was the first to get to Davao, he was also the last to leave, on the last flight the day after the performance. Then he was back in Manila, planning for the next special events, the smaller monthly concerts in the provincial stations, as well as the bigger ones.

Next year, he's talking about Martin Nievera teaming up with a big concert star and this time, he wants a bigger venue, something the size of the Ultra. He has already had preliminary discussions to use the site where the Sinulog festival is held.

It's all in a day's work for Chad, who used to work with Disney Australia as stage manager whenever Disney mounted special productions in the Asian region.

A year ago, he was home for a vacation and watched Martin's concert in Cebu. He met the Villars, who didn't stop until he agreed to handle Crossover's concert requirements.

So Chad quit Disney and he does not regret the decision. He has found an employer who treats him like he's part of the family. In fact, everyone who works on the tour feels the same way. That's why Chad has been working mostly with the same people in the year he's been with Crossover.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MAY 12-18

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	31
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:30 Da Body en Da Guard 9:30 Pinoy Exposed 10:00 Keep on Dancing 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 SOF 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Road to Sydney 10:15 Fashion Watch 10:45 Olympic Primer 11:15 National Network News 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Vanpires 6:30 Sailormoon Super S 7:00 Tropang Trumpo 8:00 Ispup 9:00 Saturday Night Specials *Greedy* 11:00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 GMA's BEST *City Hall* 11:00 Master Showman Presents 12:30 GMA Network News 1:00 The 700 Club	6:00 SaBayan 7:00 Invisible Man 8:00 Martial Law 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 Business Class 11:30 Late Night Movie	5:30 H2K 7:00 Viva Premiere Night 9:00 Kagat sa Dilim 10:00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11:00 Night Lines	6:00 Born Free 7:00 Lassie 7:30 Seventh Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents *City of Angel* 12:00 MYX	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Celebrity Profile *Jamie Lee Curtis* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Stor 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut 11:30 Extreme Close Up *Annette Benning* 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
SUN	5:30 Knowledge Power 6:00 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Ebinaang Susunod na Kabanata 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:00 The Weekend News 11:30 Off the Record	6:00 Uncut 6:30 Ugat 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Primetime Specials 10:00 National Network News 10:30 Business & Leisure 11:00 Sultada 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Sinbad the Sailor 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Sing-Galing 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Eezy Dancing 10:00 Sunday Night Movies *The Vote 2001* 12:00 Sentinel	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 Bitoy's World 7:30 GMA Telesine 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office *Look Who's Talking Too* 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12:00 GMA Network News 12:30 Little Night of Music	5:30 Hollywood Squares 6:00 Compañero y Compañera 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Just Kidding 8:30 Kids Say the Darnest Thing 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *She's So Lovely* 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 In His Steps 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 The Nanny 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Jack & Jill 10:30 Digital Tour 11:00 Sunday Night Movies 12:00 MYX	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Hollywood Moms 8:00 Oh Baby! 9:00 Celebrity Parenthood 10:00 Mama Mia! The Musical 10:30 E! Coming Attractions 11:00 The Best of 60 minute 12:00 E! Coming Attractions
MON	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9:00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Correspondents 12:00 Martin Late@Nite 12:30 Global News	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 Pilipino Box-Office 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 F 6:30 Mahna Go Go Go 7:00 Que Horror 8:00 The Big Night *Deep Red* 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Arlyn dela Cruz on Special Assignment 11:00 High Tide	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Pinoy Blockbusters 9:30 Kiss Muna 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 May Bukas Pa 7:00 Siempre Te Amare 7:30 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Michael Hayes 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Honasan Reports	7:00 Blow By Blow 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Proudly Presents 10:30 Super Bouts 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Amerika Atbp	6:00 MYX 7:00 I Dream of Jeannie 7:30 Making the Band 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Nightman 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 60 Minutes 11:00 Wild on *The Jungle* 12:00 Talk Soup
TUE	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Oka Tokat 8:30 Regal Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol 12:00 Martin Late@Nite 12:30 Global News	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:30 Cartoon Hour 7:00 Thief Takers 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Business Insight 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 The Vote 2001 6:30 The Vote 2001 7:00 ABC Action Theater *Death Trap* 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Life with Roger 10:00 The Big News 10:30 The Vote 2001 11:30 The Vote 2001	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Kool Ka Lang 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 7:30 Stark Raving Mad 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Jay Sonza's Tapatan 11:30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6:30 Saklolo Abogado 7:00 DMZ TV 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Now Showing 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Pulso at Damdamin ng Bayan	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Three Stooges 7:30 Baywatch 8:30 Angel 9:30 Mad About You 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Nightman 12:45 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Antonio Banderas* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
WED	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Pwedeng-Pwede 9:00 Kabalikat 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101 12:00 Martin Late@Nite 12:30 Global News	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 HBO Boxing 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Tapatan Walang Atrasan 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Nature Trip 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Time Quest 7:00 Planet X 7:30 Sabrina The Teenage Witch 8:00 Chicago Sons 8:30 Friends 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Phils.' Most Wanted 11:30 Police Academy	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Beh Bote Nga 9:00 Larawan 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Imbestigador 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Buffy the Vampire Slayer 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Wrestling 11:30 Kasangga Mo'y Langit	5:00 PBA 10:00 Subic Bay 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	7:00 Survivor 1 8:00 Survivor 2 9:00 Gameplan 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 The Explorer 12:45 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *The Outback* 12:00 Talk Soup
THU	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Home Along da Riles 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Assignment 12:00 Martin Late@Nite 12:30 Global News	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo 8:00 PBL 9:00 Lotto Draw 10:15 National Network News 11:00 Olympic Program 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Shulato 6:30 Fancy Lala 7:00 Guinness World Records 8:00 Soldier of Fortune 9:00 Burning Zone 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Strangers 11:30 New York Undercover 12:00 The Big News (Replay)	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 1 For 3 8:30 Viva Sinerama 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare 12:00 The 700 Club	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 Police Hour	5:30 NBA Game of the Week 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Thursday Nights at the Movies 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 PBA Moments	6:00 MYX 7:00 The Green Hornet 7:30 Cineplex 23 *Roommates* 9:30 Guide to Urban Living 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 Celebrity Homes 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Uncut *Hugh Grant* 11:30 Extreme Close Up 12:00 Talk Soup
FRI	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 7:30 Mystic Knights 8:00 Digimon 8:30 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Jullie 12:00 Martin Late@Nite	5:30 Pambansang Balita 6:00 Cartoon Hour 7:00 On-Line Bingo Pilipino 8:00 Street Legal 9:00 Lotto Draw 9:15 Pulso ng Masa 10:15 National Network News 11:00 The Scene 12:00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6:00 Lazenca 6:30 Restol 7:00 Top of the Pops 7:30 By Request *Westlife Part 3* 8:00 Touched By an Angel 9:00 Working 9:30 Normal Ohio 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *Tender, Loving Care*	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin 7:00 DragonBall Z 7:30 Pokemon 8:00 Bubble Gang 9:30 GMA Love Stories 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency 12:00 One Cubed	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Quinceañera 6:30 Siempre Te Amare 7:00 Maria del Cielo 8:00 Dharma and Greg 8:30 Nikki 9:00 City of Angels 10:00 Primetime Balita 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *Regine & Jaya Part I*	5:00 PBA 10:00 Kabayo, Karera, Karerista 11:00 Ronda Trese 11:30 Last Fool Show	6:30 MYX 7:00 Batman 7:30 Exposed 8:30 West Wing 9:30 Murphy Brown 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:15 Nightman 12:00 MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Daily 7:00 In Focus 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:30 Search Party 9:00 Fashion Emergency 9:30 E! News Daily 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Sundance* 12:00 Talk Soup

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DAYANARA Torres, Miss Universe 1993, will be one of the judges of this year's competition.

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Puerto Rican pride, pomp and pageantry

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

TODAY, a new Miss Universe will be crowned in Puerto Rico and she will have the honor of being called the Golden Miss Universe since the world's most prestigious beauty pageant is celebrating its 50th year.

The Puerto Rican organizers tasked to create today's spectacle will have to impress not only pageant bigwig Donald Trump but also an estimated 100 million televiewers from all over the world who will be able to see the pageant live via satellite. From what we've gathered at the official website of the pageant, today's two-hour show will be a showcase of pomp and pageantry.

Today's special event will also mark a reunion of sorts for Puerto Rican celebrities who have successfully conquered the world in their respective fields. Latino pop sensation Ricky Martin will do more than sway his hips in a special production number.

Miss Universe 1993 and former Philippine movie star Dayanara Torres-Muniz will sit as a member of the board of judges. Dayanara is now married to another Latino hitmaker who has conquered the world music charts, Marc Anthony, with whom she has a son.

Philippine representative Zorayda Ruth Andam is hoping to land among the 10 semi-finalists, but she will be up against much taller, better prepared candidates from Mexico, Yugoslavia, Venezuela, Sweden, USA, Chile, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and hometown favorite Puerto Rico.

Miss Universe 2001 will be shown on RPN 9 at 9 a.m. We hope they won't stretch it to the usual four gruelling hours, with tons of commercials.

Pretty and preggy Sunshine Cruz

We caught up with Sunshine Cruz at the photo-shoot of husband Cesar Montano for the Classic Line of Hanford Underfashion, and we were amazed to see a very svelte and slim mommy-to-be.

The five-month-preggy Sunshine looked really pretty. She told us that she encountered a few rough times during her early months, and was even admitted to a hospital because she suffered from pregnancy dehydration.

She recalled that she liked *taho* and *siopao* during her infanticipating phase and shared that Cesar was always sleepy during that same period. But all is well now and she looks forward to September, when she is due to give birth.

She doesn't have a preference as to the sex of their forthcoming baby. "*Kahit anong ibigay ni* Lord, *basta* healthy, normal and complete," she breathed.

Rico J. is having the best of both worlds

It was Eraserheads' lead vocalist Ely Buendia who volunteered to produce Rico J. Puno's new album but the plan went pfffft. Nevertheless, Rico J went ahead and recorded the 10 cuts of his new CD which he calls "Aliw", under BMG Records.

Most of the songs are naughty but that's sort of expected from Rico J, who remains one of the few artists who can get away with green jokes. We have listened to the album and found its approach very innovative and its contents, fresh and fun.

Original compositions by top songwriters, producers and arrangers like Nonoy Tan, Lito Camo and Bodjie Dasig were gathered to come up with what is a long-overdue album for Puno.

Rico J is also running for re-election in the coming week, as councilor in one of Makati's districts.

There are many reasons why people jump onto the political bandwagon. Some want to luxuriate in power, others want to amass wealth. Yet there are those who simply have what it takes to serve their constituents. "Even if I am in the minority, I'd like to think that I'm one of those who simply want to serve," Rico J says.

Which would he prefer, a hit comeback album or winning at the polls? "I deserve both," he smiles.

Afterthoughts on the FAP Awards Night

The recently concluded Film Academy Awards Night was drab, indeed. Many of the stars chose to be absent, specially the winners of the major awards like Best Actor Eddie Garcia ("Deathrow"), Supporting Actress Amy Austria ("Anak") and Supporting Actor Pen Medina ("Deathrow"). Only Best Actress winner Gloria Romero was present among the acting awardees.

Despite the lackluster proceedings, there were a few really touching moments when retired comediennes Chuchi and Dely Atay Atayan were honored with lifetime achievement awards. It was also heart-warming to see the Eigenmann family doing their special number.

We thought the Film Score category was missing but learned later on that no nominations were made since the outstanding film scorers for the past year were part of the 13-member group which resigned en masse from their guild.

It was also ludicrous to see a lone nominee in the Theme Song category (Vehnee Saturno) win for mediocre work in "Abandonada."

We hope that, in the coming years, the FAP awards will truly deserve to be called industry awards, steeped in credibility, integrity and intelligent choices.

Diether Ocampo, traditional Filipino

After Diether Ocampo's stint on the soap "Saan Ka Man Naroroon" opposite Claudine Barretto, he is set to topbill his own soap opera, "Cadena de Amor" on ABS-CBN. He is unfazed by the fact that he's surrounded by women in the soap (Carmina Villaroel and Dimples Romana) because he calls himself a traditional Filipino.

"I respect women, I can do household chores. I want to keep things simple. We can work on things around the house together. Whatever I can do for the house, I will do it. I can cook anything," Diether reveals.

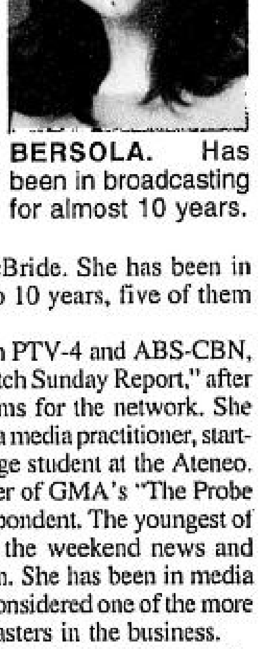
Aggressiveness and dirty fingernails are major turnoffs for him. How would he describe his ideal girl? "She must love me for what I am. I like a girl who looks *mabango*. She has to be neat and clean.

"She must have a good heart and good family values. She must be interesting and fun to be with. *Makulit ako*, so *kailangan* may sense of humor *din siya*," he grins.

He feels nervous and excited about his upcoming soap. He believes that hard work, dedication and talent can help him meet the expectations of his home studio and his fans.

Tintin, Cristina and Bernadette prove their mettle

Christine "Tintin" Bersola, Cristina Peczon and Bernadette Sembrano are three young women who have proven their mettle as broadcast journalists for three TV networks.



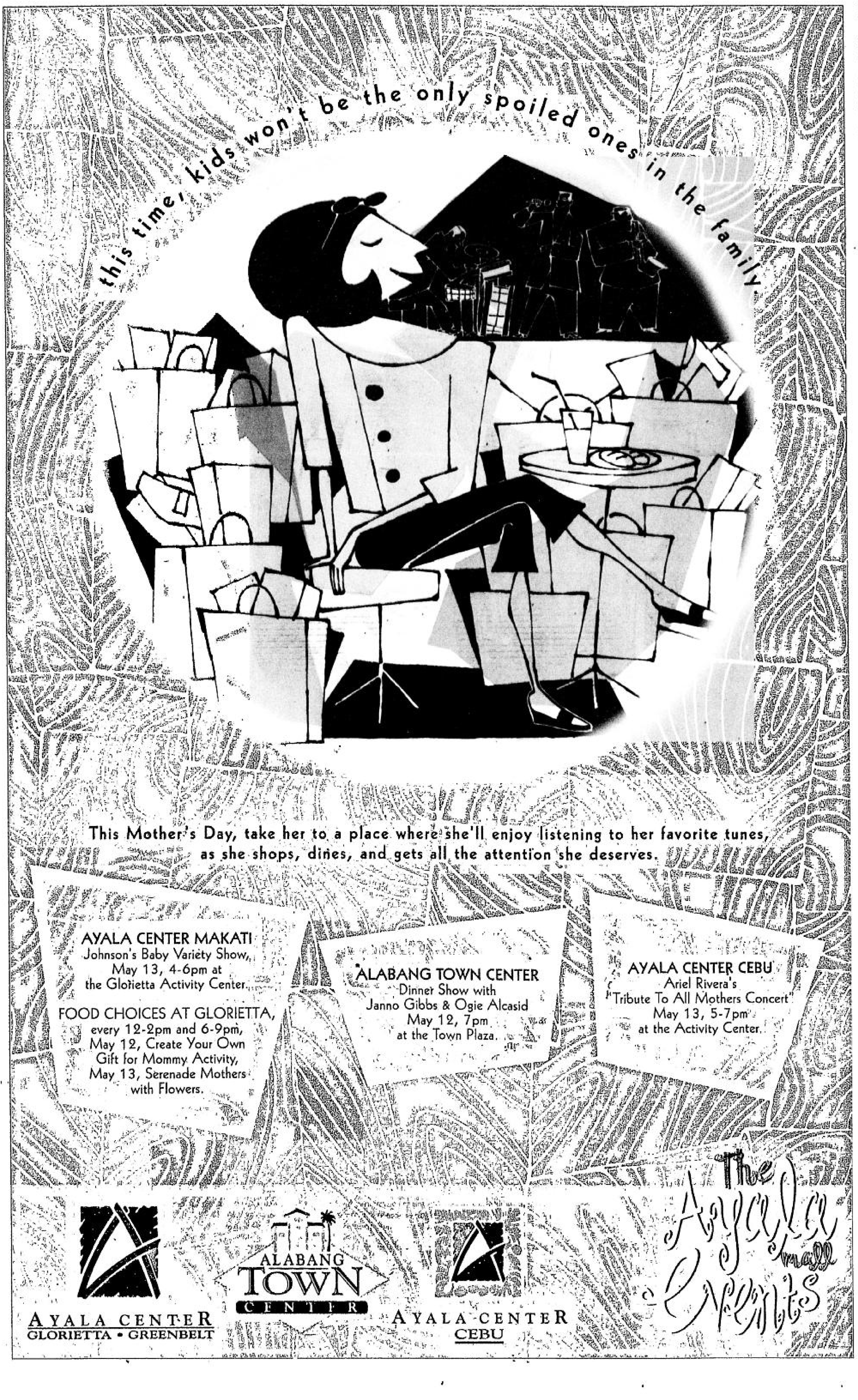
BERSOLA. Has been in broadcasting for almost 10 years.

Tintin is part of ABS-CBN's "Talk TV" along with real-life sweetheart Julius Babao (her partner in "Alas Singko Y Medya," which they used to host), Ryan Agoncillo and Janet McBride. She has been in broadcasting for close to 10 years, five of them spent with "ASYM."

Cristina, formerly with PTV-4 and ABS-CBN, anchors RPN's "Newswatch Sunday Report," after doing other news programs for the network. She has spent over 10 years as a media practitioner, starting when she was a college student at the Ateneo.

Bernadette is a member of GMA's "The Probe Team" and a news correspondent. The youngest of the three, she also does the weekend news and newsbreaks for the station. She has been in media for only two years but is considered one of the more promising young broadcasters in the business.

Recently, the three were chosen endorsers for Extraderm exfoliant because of their credibility, good looks and wholesome reputation. The three are ideal choices because of the pressure they face in their daily routine and their constant exposure to studio lights. They have tried the product and attest to its effectiveness.


this time, kids won't be the only spoiled ones in the family.

This Mother's Day, take her to a place where she'll enjoy listening to her favorite tunes, as she shops, dines, and gets all the attention she deserves.

AYALA CENTER MAKATI
Johnson's Baby Variety Show,
May 13, 4-6pm at
the Glorietta Activity Center.

FOOD CHOICES AT GLORIETTA,
every 12-2pm and 6-9pm,
May 12, Create Your Own
Gift for Mommy Activity,
May 13, Serenade Mothers
with Flowers.

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Dinner Show with
Janno Gibbs & Ogie Alcasid
May 12, 7pm
at the Town Plaza.

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Ariel Rivera's
"Tribute To All Mothers Concert"
May 13, 5-7pm
at the Activity Center.

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The Ayala mall Events

Saturday SPECIAL

AIZA. Difficult transition.

Aiza Seguerra grows up

She misses being fussed over by her fans but she also enjoys her privacy now

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By Edmund L. Sicam

WHEN you hear the name Aiza Seguerra, images of a tot doing a duck walk dance come to mind. Her smart-alecky answers to the inane questions of Tito, Vic and Joey are forever etched in our minds.

No exception

But all kids eventually grow up, and Aiza is no exception. She is turning 18 on Sept. 17 and is hardly the traditional debutante. She looks comfortable in her rugged outfit, still talks the same way, sounding like a miniature version of Vic Sotto.

She is embarking on a new career — she has a new album coming up, titled "Pagdating ng Panahon," under Vicor. The album has 10 cuts that deal mostly with relationships, friendship and love, songs based on Aiza's experiences, feelings and emotions. Most are compositions of Edith Gallardo and Moy Ortiz.

Aiza admits that she does compose songs, mostly about love, but they are not yet for public consumption. "*Nasa isang tape ko na nakatago sa bahay,*" she grins. She was asked to include a composition or two in her album, but she refused. "*Ayoko pa, e. Siyempre mga ganoong bagay dapat* confident *ka sa gagawin mo. Siguro* next album," she says hopefully.

Guitar

She says she learned to play the guitar from her cousins' friends. Afterwards, she practiced on her own. She shares that Vic Sotto even bought her a guitar. She also asks him to teach her to play some songs when they are together.

Aiza reveals that although she misses being on "Eat Bulaga," her life right now is just fine. "*Mas masaya kasi hindi ako* pressured *masyado. Mas nagagawa ko iyung mga dapat kong gawin — nagiging* teenager *ako, nakakalabas ako. Mas masaya.*"

She admits though that she misses being fussed over by her fans. "*Siyempre mas masarap iyung feeling na kapag lalabas ka, maraming sumisigaw, 'Ay!!!!!'*" On the other hand, she says she also enjoys the privacy she has now. "*Mas masarap na pag lalabas ka sa mall, di ka masyadong* noticed," she reflects.

Her mother has tried to keep Aiza's feet on the ground. She says she has accepted that she is not as popular as she was when she was smaller. "*Tanggap ko na iyan.* Ever since *naman, sinabi na sa akin ng* mommy *ko na dumarating talaga iyan. Etong trabaho namin, di naman* forever.

"*Kung baga, bihira lang talaga mangyari yung* Sharon Cuneta, Vilma Santos, *hanggang ngayon, iba pa rin. Iyan, mga sinuwerte. Pero dapat talaga, matanggap mo. Kaya, sa iba naman ako ngayon.* Singing. At least *dito, di gaya pag artista ka, sobrang kailangan laging sikat ka parati.*"

Lost childhood

Looking back, she doesn't really feel that she lost her childhood because of the way her parents brought her up. Aiza relates that even when she was earning lots of money then, they would still take the LRT and she still played in the streets of her neighborhood. Her parents tried to make her life as normal as possible.

Although that was sometimes easier said than done. Aiza shares that people would stare at her and call her attention even as she played in the streets. But she still insists she had a normal childhood.. "*Kahit naman nasa* set *ako, naglalaro ako lagi!*"

She notes that it is very hard to make the transition from child sensation to teen star.

"*Mahirap talaga, lalo na sa mga* televiewers, *isaka mga* audience *natin, mahirap na matanggap na 'Uy, tumatanda na siya'. Nagki-cling pa rin sila sa bata.*" She says jokingly, "*Kumontra sila, di tuloy ako tumangkad!*"

She tries to rationalize the public's perception of her. "*Iba lang talaga ang pagtingin sa akin noon, na sobrang kalog, sobrang ma-chika,* e siyempre pag *lumalaki ka naman, ang pangit kung masyado kang.....,*" she tries to find the right words to end her sentence, but fails.

"*Pero pag lumalaki ka, nagiging* mature *iyung isip mo, medyo nagiging seryoso ka,* which is normal *naman. Na siguro iyung iba, di lang nila matanggap*"—she explains, as if begging the public to accept that she is now a young woman.

Even though her fans cannot let go of her child star image, Aiza has never considered leaving show business. "*Kasi* I really love what I am doing. Regardless of whether *marami pa akong* fans *o hindi. Siyempre mas masarap kung ganoon* but you just have to face the fact that *di talaga ganoon ang buhay.*" She adds, "*Di dahil sikat na sikat ka, pero dahil* sa satisfaction *mo sa sarili mo na masarap umarte, masarap kumanta. Di mo na iisipin kung sikat na sikat ka o hindi, basta alam mo na nagawa mo yung gusto mo.*"

For a girl going on 18 years, she really knows what she wants at this point in her life. She's not in it for the fame, but for the satisfaction she gains from performing.

No debut

But one thing she knows, she doesn't want a debut, at least not a traditional one. "*Kasi, gusto ko magkaroon ng sasakyan. Gusto ko dati* Rav 4 *kaya lang ang dami na ngayong may* Rav 4, *kaya gusto ko ngayon,* Vitara," she discloses, revealing a practical, no-nonsense mind at work.

"*Kaya ayoko mag-debut kasi, di ba ang laki-laki ng binabayad, ginagastos*

AIZA/p.F2

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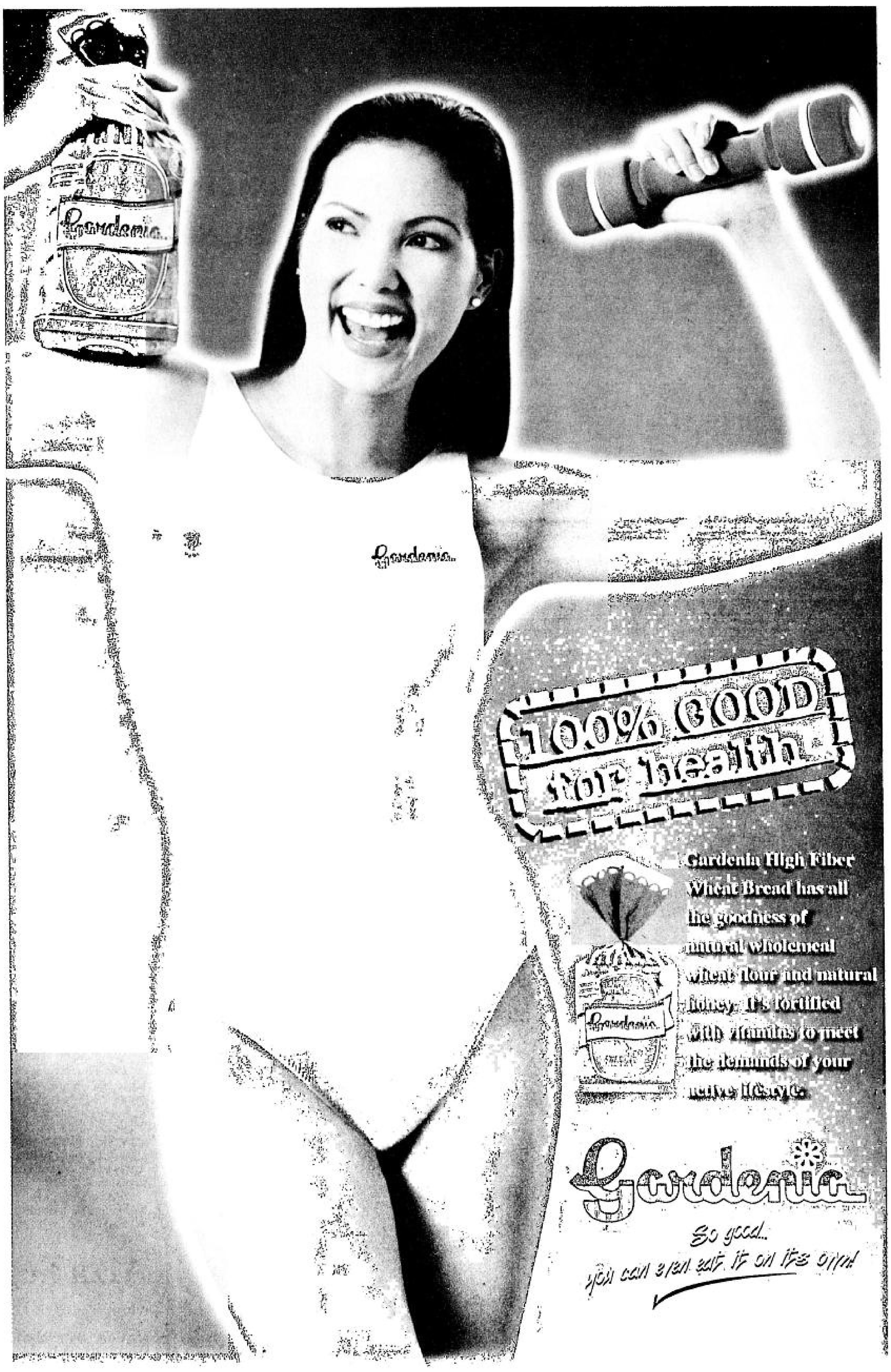
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ALBUM REVIEWS

Bittersweet tunes from Sugababes and Teenhearts

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

One Touch
Sugababes
Warner Music

YOUNG, adventurous, angst-filled and sweet, Sugababes sing about girl power, sex and the travails of being a teenager.

Sixteen-year-old Keisha Buchnan and Siobhan Donaghy and 15-year-old half Pinay Mutya Buena can harmonize and successfully mix R&B and pop with funky beats.

Trendy

"Overload" gets them noticed. Lyrics are cool and trendy. The melody is catchy and you can't get it out of your head after you hear it. Gen(eration)-Y can easily relate to it and might just make it their anthem/theme song.

"One Foot In" warns guy not to get too close because these girls have other priorities. Nope, they won't sulk or mope if guys ignore or take them for granted. They are in full control of their lives! That's girl power for you.

"Same Old Story" sums up the lame excuses guys come up with when they're caught red-handed. Don't listen to this song if you love being a "doormat" girlfriend because it might remind you to wise up and listen to your instincts.

Eavesdropping

"Just Let It Go" tells girls not to be martyrs. It's like eavesdropping in on three girls having a serious "girl talk" about letting a no-good boyfriend go.

"New Year" is about innocence and losing it, about growing up after love and heartbreak. Finally, a song that tells us not to wallow in pain and sorrow!

Ironically, "One Touch" has bland lyrics but good guitar riffs.

You'll like this if you're not expecting serious and perfect lyrics but normal stuff that teens go through. Harmonizing is not a problem and they can sing without being nasal.

Teenhearts
Teenhearts
Star Records

WELCOME to a pop train. This album has adolescence and the pains of heartbreak written all over it. The vocal style of Jaybee, Donna, Marielle and Aisha is similar to the all-male vocal harmony group, Jeremiah so it's easy on the ears.

Martyrs

"Di Ko Kaya," "Makayanan Ko Kaya" and "O Diyos Ko" are songs for martyrs. It totally negates everything about empowering yourself and being your own person.

TEENHEARTS. Bubble gum music.

In a weird sort of way, it even encourages you to "suffer." Lyrics like "*Tinatawagan mo lang ako/Kapag may kailangan ka/Pero diyan sa puso mo/Di naman ako*" and "*Gagawin ko ang lahat mangako ka lang/Puso'y di sasaktan/Di mo iiwan/Di ko kaya/Di ko kaya*" make girls look like stupid fools.

Sure, girls, usually have a tendency to be blind when they fall in love, but there has to be a limit to the stuff that they tolerate.

"Thank You" is a good track. They have definitely done their homework when it comes to cracking the teen market. They know the importance of the *kilig* factor.

"Pagkat Ikaw Lang" and "Kulang" smack of romantic mush and sentiment. These songs detail why we love the feeling of being with the ones we love—a body to snuggle up to for warmth and comfort, and someone to talk to.

Revival

"Crazy for You" is a revival of Madonna's hit and Teenhearts gives it a delicate and sweet flavor. Madonna gave the song a sultry and sensual appeal while Teenhearts' version has a light, bubblegum feel.

"Rhythm of the Night" is another revival. The beat shows that they have good vocal harmony even if the tempo is heightened. It gives you the impression that they are indeed in command.

The album suits the teen market nicely. Sóme tracks have commercial schmoozing on them to entice teens to grab the album.

LEA with "Miss Saigon" co-stars Jonathan Pryce and Simon Bowman.

10 YEARS AGO

The way they were

By Leia Torre

STARS come and go. While some entertainers enjoy fame for most of their lives, the majority have to content themselves with a star that shines bright only long enough for a few movies. To give you an idea about the entertainers who have survived the pitfalls of show business, here are some of the entertainment events that were happening 10 years ago, and who made them happen:

Rehearsals

On the local scene, Menchu Apostol, who arranged the classic "Di Na Natuto," released an album titled "Papa's Bag" under Viva Records. Filipino-born Broadway actor Tony Marino left for Sydney, Australia in May, 1991 for five weeks of rehearsals to play the role of the King in the famous musical, "The King and I."

He starred opposite English actress Hayley Mills, and the show was slated for a June 11 opening night in Brisbane.

Marino was the second Filipino talent to perform in a lead role for international audiences, the first one being Lea Salonga in "Miss Saigon."

Ace Vergel made a comeback to the big screen after a three-year hiatus. His new starrer was "Sagad Hanggang Buto," directed by Bebong Osorio. Randy Santiago came out with a new single titled "Siguro (Mainit na Naman ang Ulo)."

Felipe de Leon, composer and nationalist, turned 79. His works include the song "Sa Nayon Ko," the chamber music piece "Sinag-Diwa," and the operas "Noli" and "Fili." Violinist John Lesaca relived memorable movie themes in his concert, "Box Office Hits," which was held at the Music Museum.

Farewell concert

With group members Geneva Cruz, Jeffrey Hidalgo, and Tony Lambino officially resigned, Smokey Mountain said adieu to its fans with its farewell concert, "Smokey Mountain, A Wish for a Better World," with music direction by Ryan Cayabyab.

Keempee de Leon released his much awaited debut album under Octo-Arts International. The album included his own version of "Unchained Melody" and his hit song, "My One and Only," an English adaptation of the Japanese Pop classic "Saigono Iiwake."

Raymart Santiago radically revised his career plans by switching from making "film fluff" like "Estudyante Blues," to starring in an action film. He aimed to make a name for himself as the youngest action star in the land.

Jamie Rivera left for London to join the cast of "Miss Saigon" at the Drury Lane Theater Royale. Kuya Germs (German Moreno) turned concert producer anew by presenting "Handog Ni Guy," the birthday concert of superstar Nora Aunor, which was staged on May 18, 1991 at the Araneta Coliseum. The concert was produced through Kuya Germs' own G.M. Productions, in cooperation with the Nora Aunor Foundation.

Con man

On the international scene, Michael Keaton starred in "Pacific Heights," a movie about a smooth-talking con man who made life a living hell for his landlords, played by Melanie Griffith and Matthew Modine. The film was directed by John Schlesinger.

Academy Award-winning director-screenwriter Barry Levinson directed "Avalon," a semi-autobiographical tale of three generations of an immigrant American family, the Krichinskys, who pursued the American Dream over a 50-year time span, from the early 1900s to the 1960s, in Avalon, Baltimore.

Johnny Depp played a modern day Frankenstein's Monster/King Kong/Phantom of the Opera in "Edward Scissorhands," with Winona Ryder co-starring as Edward's love interest. Edward is a semi-human creation of a mad scientist who was left unfinished, alone, and immortal, when his creator died from a heart attack.

Conclusions and updates: Stars like Michael Keaton have continued to rise up the show biz ladder and improve on their talents. Geneva Cruz went solo after leaving Smokey Mountain and met with success. Johnny Depp went on to make more movies after "Edward Scissorhands" clicked at the box office. As for some of the others, where *are* they now?

What Filipino scriptwriters can learn from Writers Guild of America's ongoing struggle

By Ramon Rey E. Bayron

(Conclusion)

WELLS explains the American writers' objection: "A painting by Picasso, yes. One artist and a canvas, creating. 'A Few Good Men' is 'A Film By' Rob Reiner? No, it's an award-winning play written by Aaron Sorkin, screenplay by Aaron Sorkin, directed wonderfully by Mr. Reiner.

"And that's a hell of an accomplishment, one that I admire. Directing is damn hard work. But "A Few Good Men" was written by someone else, photographed by someone else, scored, acted and edited by others."

Position

Yet again, the DGA rejects this with the following statement: "The DGA has always supported the position that possessory credits should be freely negotiable for anyone involved in the filmmaking process. Historically, these credits have been given in recognition of the commanding contribution made by a particular person—director, writer, producer, etc.—to a film."

To which WGA member Tom Shulman replies in his e-article at the WGA website: We believe in the principle of one job, one credit. 'Screenplay By' or 'Written By' is distinguished, honorable and sufficient. 'Directed By' is distinguished, honorable and sufficient.

"Over the years, many directors, some of whom were both DGA and Academy Award winners, have refused to take a possessory credit. We applaud their example. We call on all directors to join us in putting an end to this practice so that we can work together in an environment of mutual respect."

WGA maintains that the vanity issue is equivalent to the respect issue that they have fought to gain for the longest time. "We believe this negotiation to be about respect," Wells said in his speech at the opening of the MBA talks. He adds, "The community of writers feels strongly that we are not being accorded the respect due to us, given our contributions to the industry."

Just how "unrespected" do writers in the US feel? Nicholas Kazan, in his article published on the WGA website, bewails, "Writers are crucial to the making of every motion picture but are frequently cut out of the process, treated as if we were unimportant, dispensable or interchangeable."

Contribution

Man, did he use the perfect words! Certainly, when a screenwriter is not even accorded an assigned seat during the premiere of the film he wrote, it sort of means that his contribution to the film is not that important... After all, he "just" wrote the material. It happened here to a senior writer last year during the MMFF season.

Similarly, not a few television writers have experienced being taken out of a show all together without the courtesy of a notice.

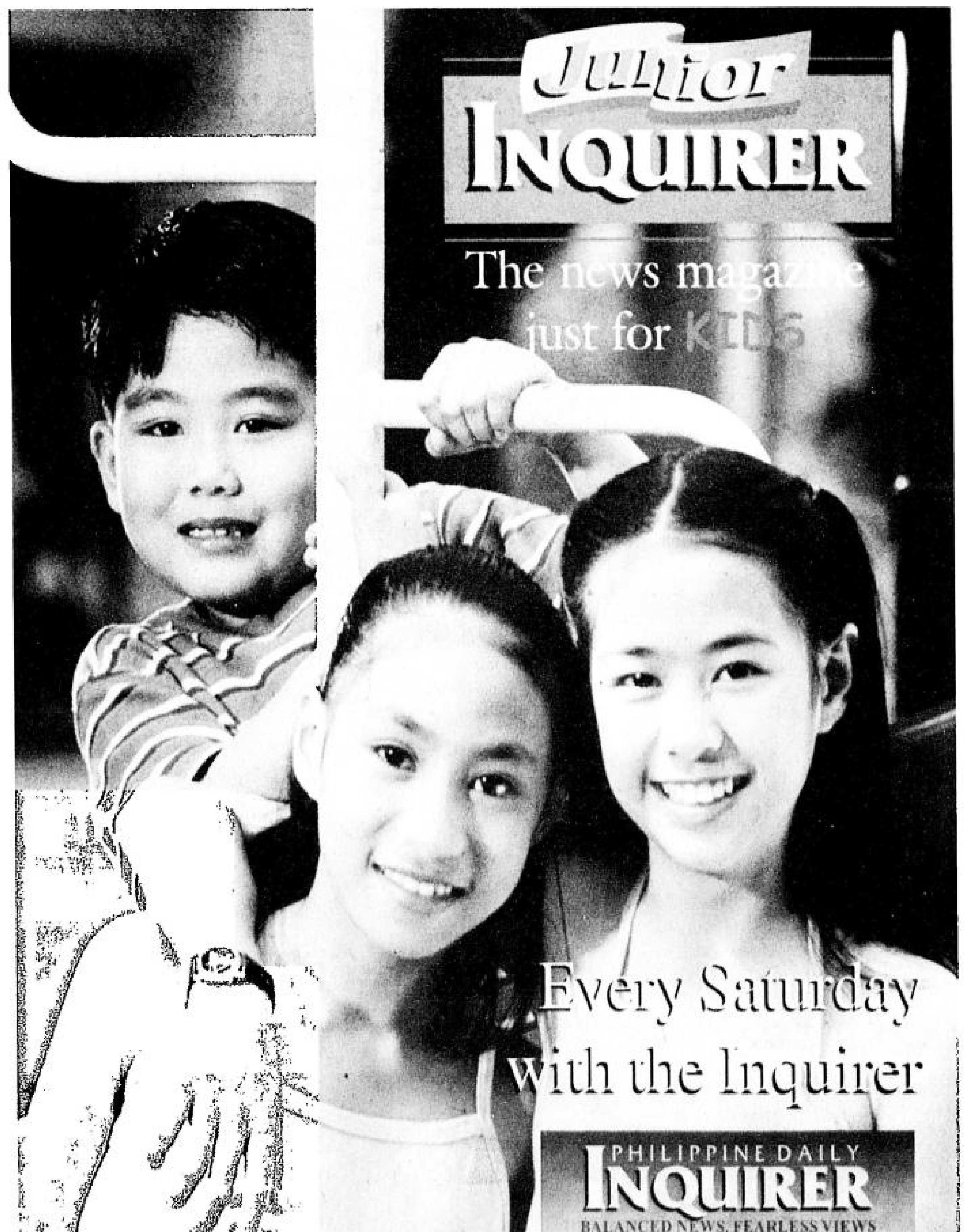
Scriptwriters are just kept in limbo with regards to their status but are also expected to be available anytime. If that isn't dispensability and inter-changeability, I don't know what is.

WGA is seeking better recognition of the importance of the writer's role in the entire filmmaking process, and they are not merely using rhetoric to achieve their goals. It is hoped that our very own Screenwriters Guild of the Philippines (SGP) learn from the moves of its American counterpart and that, under the leadership of its newly-elected officers, such hopes will not turn out to be false.

Question

Undoubtedly, the "new" SGP has the brains, with the re-entry of distinguished and active film and television writers into the fold. The only question that remains is, does it have the guts?

Reportedly, other less popular yet equally active writers are taking a wait-and-see attitude before signing in (or renewing) their membership. This "fence-sitting" attitude needs to be addressed immediately through effective and concrete "trust-building measures" for the group to achieve a respectable degree of unity that may finally give them a voice loud enough for the producers, stars and directors to hear.



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In show biz and politics, image is everything

By Veron Dionisio

(Conclusion)

THE bottom line is, show business or the "culture industries" of film, television and print media are businesses for profit. The bases for their continued existence will always be income generation and capital accumulation. Social responsibility will always be a matter of choice, depending greatly on the strength or intensity of the personalities' survival instincts.

It becomes really problematic when the business of governing the nation becomes show biz-oriented. It becomes really unsettling when political campaigns become a showcase of personalities trying hard to outdo one another in song and dance; in putting up attention-getting but rather bland slogans that lack depth and meaning; in the loaded rhetorics of empty promises; in senseless debates on TV where voice levels run high, much like how the people in a cockfight shout their bids through a *kristo*.

Real issues

The show business treatment of politics has distracted the political campaign from the real issues of the day. Who's to blame for this?

Political candidates complain that it's what the public wants. They claim that everytime they talk about their platforms and plans of action, the people clamor for songs from a megastar, inspirational talk from a star for all seasons, and a dance number from a sexy siren.

Gone are the days when people ardently awaited the highly charged political speech of a candidate, his wit and humor, for his forceful discussion of political issues.

Negative effects

We may never be able to get down to the roots of why politics has become such a play of images but we can propose some actions to counter its negative effects:

For one, big media network conglomerates like ABS-CBN and GMA can set a more serious tone by making political candidates discuss their achievements, qualifications and plans for the country, instead of putting up a show.

We have yet to see a television debate where participants need not shout at the top of their voices just to drive a point, losing their power to enlighten viewers on the issues at hand.

A political debate, to be really effective, must be done in an orderly manner, and must be issue-driven to be really illuminating.

Educational institutions must mediate between what media has been saying about the election and the existing realities of the political landscape. Schools can provide more opportunities for enlightened discussions on issues.

Never too late

We only have a few days left before the people finally cast their votes. But it's never too late. Various media researches have shown that voters significantly change their political choices towards the end of the electoral campaigns. There are still a significant number of people out there who haven't made up their minds.

Would they vote for images, or should they go for track records? Images incessantly portrayed on television screens and displayed in huge billboards can decide the outcome of the elections, but they aren't everything. Surely, we can help the voters realize that.

Aiza Seguerra grows up

(From page F1)

pag nagde-debut." She doesn't see the need to be introduced to society.

But her mother insisted, and so Aiza gave in, but only if her conditions would be met. "*Di ako mag-ga*-gown, *di ako di ako magco-cotillion at ayokong may* escort. *Bukod doon, kayo na'ng bahala.*"

But then she realizes that she forgot to mention that she will not dance. "*Gusto ko iyung komportable ako. Ayoko naman di ba* party *ko, tapos di ako komportable.* Actually *nga raw, sila* (*iyung mga mag-aayos*) *na lang daw magco-cotillion!*"

She is celebrating her birthday at Villa Escudero. "*Ewan ko kung makakapunta lahat.* Actually, doon *mate-test iyon e, sinong nagmamahal sa iyo, sinong nagke*-care!" Her family has been friends with the owners of Villa Escudero since she was nine years old.

Aiza says although she has had suitors in the past, she has never had a boyfriend. "*Ayoko, kinikilabutan ako!*" She tells us the reason behind her boy-less existence: "*Kaya wala akong manliligaw kasi nababara ko sila kaagad. Iyung mga umaalang-alang, 'May BF ka na ba?' 'Wala! At wala akong planong*

However, her practical and rational side explains her actions: "*Naaawa nga ako, e. Mahirap naman kasi mag*-encourage *ng isang tao kung wala ring patutunguhan.* At least *sa simula pa lang, alam na niyang wala talaga.*"

She does have crushes, not from showbiz, but from school. Just like a normal teenager, she resorts to tactics to find reasons to be able to see her crush. "*Mga tipong kunyari wala akong klase, bababa ako, titingnan ko, kasi alam ko kung anong oras dumarating iyon e, pampakilig lang. Mga ganoon,*" she says with a giggle.

No pretensions

One thing is sure, Aiza knows what she wants. The question is, will she get it? What is refreshing about Aiza is that she faces her latest endeavor with no pretensions or illusions. She knows the exact situation and is realistic about her expectations. And she knows exactly who she is, and remains true to herself.

"*Ayoko namang magpilit na maging ganoon kasi di ako ganoon. Ano, pipilitin ko sarili ko na magpapayat, hahatakin ko sarili ko para tumangkad, para magkaroon ako ng* show? I don't think so! *Ganito ako, ganito talaga ako,*" she says with confidence.

Then she adds, "Actually, *baka mamaya, magbo-*

MOTHERS IN FILIPINO FILMS

From martyrs to self-actualizing individuals

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR research for our recent piece on films about mothers included calling up colleagues in show biz and media for their favorite movies on mother-child relations. In the course of our conversations, our resource persons urged us to come up with a separate list of most-loved Filipino movies that have focused on mothers. Here are some titles:

ANITA Linda as the passive, pathetic Sisa.

Dolors

Traditionally, mothers in local films were generally characterized as quintessential "martyrs," working themselves to the bone, suffering a veritable Calvary of dolors for the sake of their children—who, instead of being grateful, only added to their miserable mothers' woes. What ingrates!

The movie that most perfectly limns this "crucified" view of mothers is the legendary Rosa Mia starrer, "Pitong Kalbaryo ng Isang Ina." As the bathetic title more than implies, Rosa Mia had seven children in that eight-handkerchief melodrama, each of whom intentionally or unintentionally made her life even more miserable than it already was.

Victims

That was in the 1950s, when movie mothers were made to suffer. This portrait of mothers as victims was reinforced by such films as "Sisa," starring Anita Linda as Rizal's similarly pathetic mother figure, who literally went crazy when her beloved sons, Crispin and Basilio, were wrenched away from her.

Like Rosa Mia in "Pitong Kalbaryo ng Isang Ina," Anita Linda veritably luxuriated in the dolors of her character, pathetically beseeching heaven itself to take pity on her and come to the help of her poor, oppressed sons.

Grit

By the 1960s and '70s, however, the Filipino mother on film had acquired a measure of grit and emotional independence, no longer all that willing to spend her days merely giving her lachrymal glands a workout, bemoaning her fate, and nailing herself on the cross of her ungrateful children's vices.

Feisty mothers played by the likes of Rita Gomez made it clear to all and sundry that their crying jags were over, and that they had more to live for than just making up for their children's sins of omission and commission.

Stud

Indeed, in "Insiang," Lino Brocka even gave us a mother (played by Mona Lisa) who actively competed with her daughter (Hilda Koronel) for the lustful attention of the neighborhood stud.

In the "Hello, Soldier" episode of Brocka's "Tatlo, Dalawa, Isa," Anita Linda again played mother—this time, to an Amerasian (Hilda Koronel) who was bent on leaving her to fend for herself just so she could go to the States with her long-lost American father.

Dream

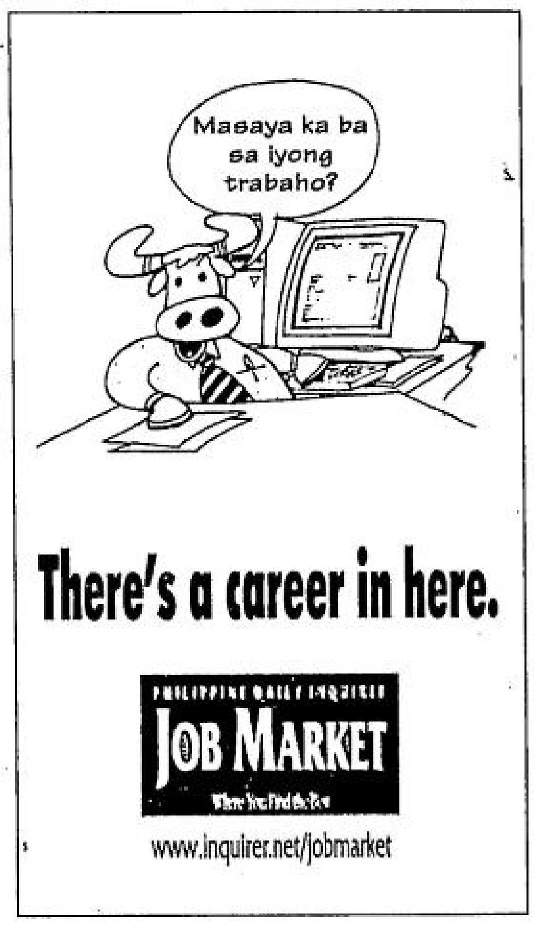
But this mother played by Anita Linda was no passive, pathetic Sisa. In the episode's penultimate scene, she fought for her daughter—and Hilda surprised even herself by deciding to give up her dream of living in the States and opting to stay with her mother, who after all had brought her up single-handedly when her father had conveniently dropped out of her life.

In another episode in the same Brocka movie, the mother was an even stronger mother character, despite the fact that she was bedridden. She forced her old-maid daughter (Lolita Rodriguez) to give up her own happiness so that she could serve her hand and foot until she died.

Injustice

At first, Lolita put up with her mother's manipulative ways, but she eventually saw the injustice of it all and rebelled, desperately seeking her freedom.

Thus did this episode fly in the face of tradition and transformed the mater dolorosa of old into the "daughter dolorosa" who finally had to go against her smothering mother's wishes in order to finally live her own life. *(To be concluded)*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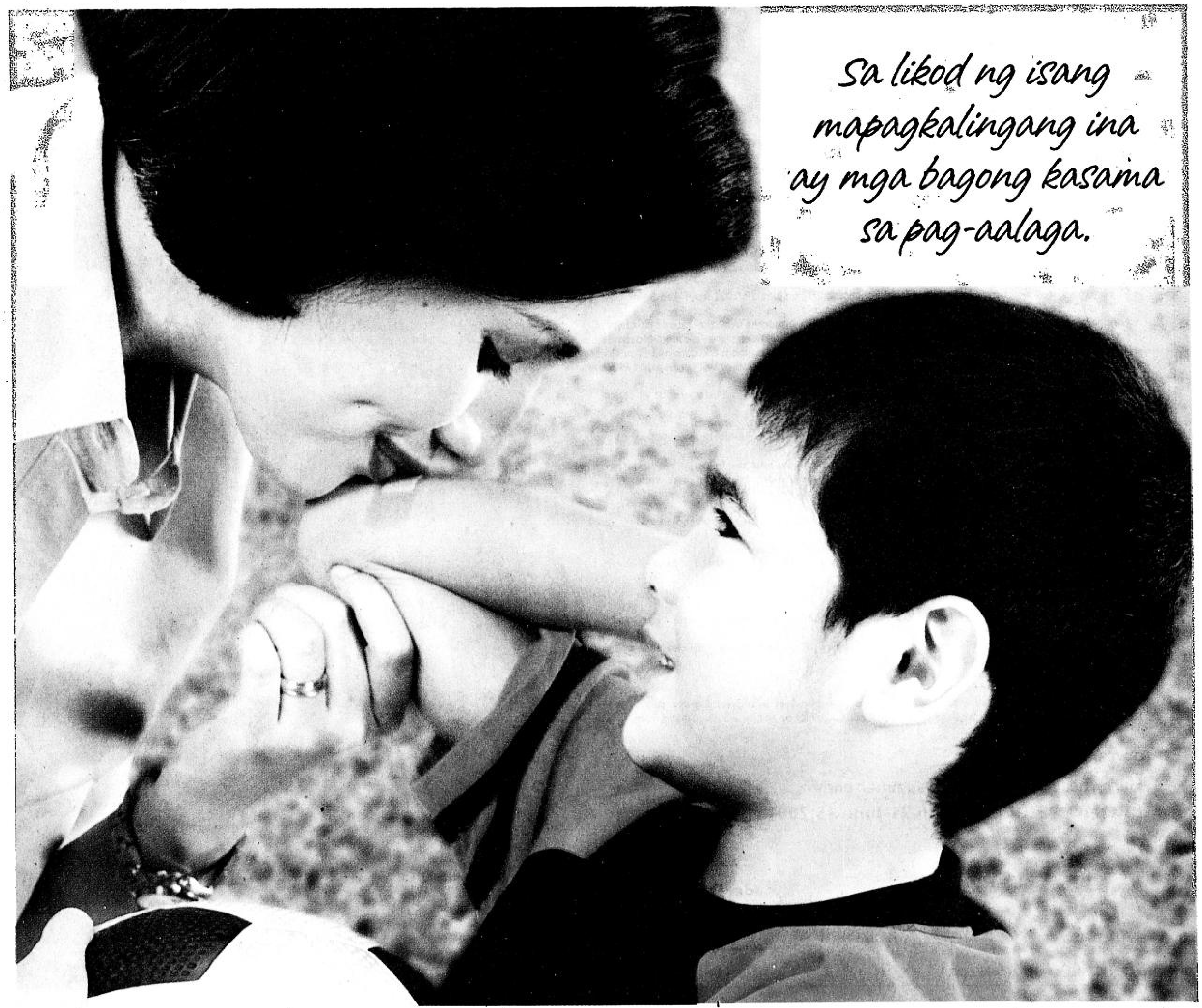
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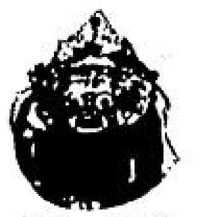

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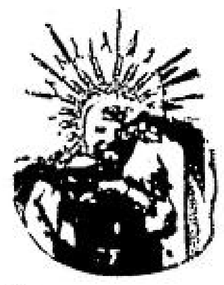

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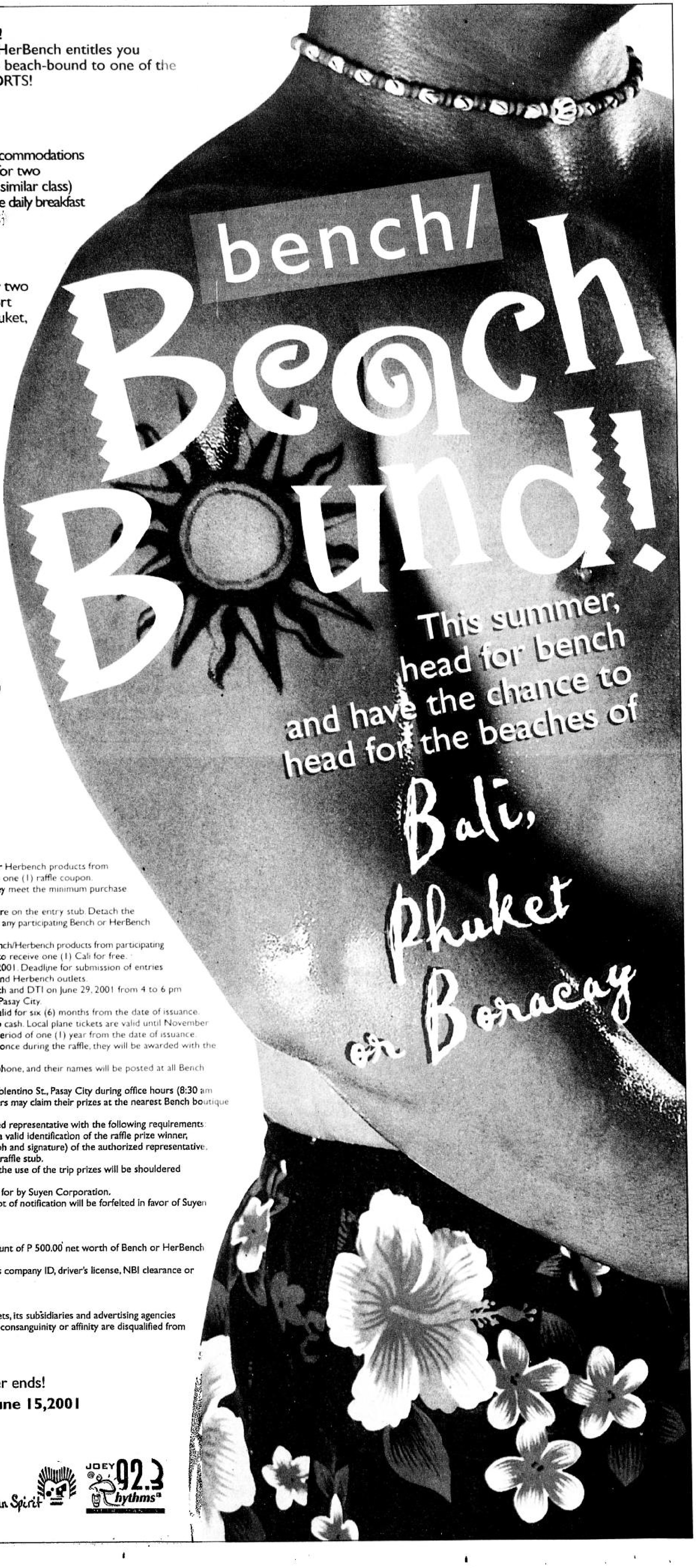
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The exceptions rather than the rule

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

ALAS, Tracy was a married man. Despite the fact that he loved Katharine he would not divorce Louise Treadwell, the former actress he married in 1923.

Roman Catholic

It is bandied about that it was because he was Roman Catholic that he would not ever consider divorcing her although they lived separately. For all intents and purposes Tracy and the uncomplaining Ms Hepburn were 'man and wife'. In fact, when the embittered actor passed away she took care of all burial preparations handing the memorial ceremony over to the widow when everything was done. She merely sent a bouquet as a token of her love. Hollywood was deprived of a juicy and controversial *ménage a trois* the gossipy press hoped to publicize for the scandal-hungry world to read about. Hepburn did not fall for the trap. Instead, she maintained her dignity and kept the matter personal thus giving their enduring but unconventional union an added degree of enigma as well as respectability.

The Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy union is considered one of Hollywood's great romances along with the ideal marriage of hunk Clark Gable and lithesome Carole Lombard that ended tragically when the inimitable blonde comedienne died in an airplane crash while soliciting funds for War Bonds during World War II.

Psychological needs

Ms Hepburn who was to be honored by her peers with an unprecedented 4 Academy Awards for Best Actress had also ministered the many medical and psychological needs of the cantankerous but talented Tracy. In his later years he was an ill man with an acute drinking problem. She prodded him to work despite his illness, got him roles worthy of his talent despite the well-known disadvantage that he was virtually undirectable so difficult he had become to handle. Only director Stanley Kramer who admired his immense skill as an actor and constant partner Katherine could control him dark moods.

Kramer elicited a truly awesome performance from him in "Judgment At Nuremberg." On other hand, director Robert Wise fired him from "Tribute to a Bad Man" in 1962 with the accord of MGM's top honchos. She made sure he maintained his diminishing self-esteem so profoundly conscious was he of his mortality after seeing his contemporaries Gable and Bogart pass away. He had also appeared in films that did very poorly at the box office so studios kept him at arm's length.

HEPBURN. Unconventional union.

Katharine did her best to keep him in the scene, fighting for roles that would lift his spirits and bring back needed confidence. Hepburn even accepted a smaller salary to underwrite his participation in his last film "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner," a film hinged on the box office clout of Sidney Poitier.

Insurance companies would not take an option on the gravely sick Tracy so faithful Katharine took a cut to pay for the insurance fee. For her dedication to Tracy, Hollywood bestowed Ms Hepburn her second Academy Award, a good 35 years after her first one in "Morning Glory" as well another 11 nominations for the esteemed category. Ms Hepburn's performance in the successful romance revolving around two disparate generations was commendable, to be sure. However, it hardly deserved the award.

Indeed, it was a sentimental award but who would deny Miss Katherine Hepburn, star par excellence of admirable longevity such distinct

THE EXCEPTIONS/P. F6

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Top stars play unconventional roles in their upcoming films

By Nestor U. Torre

IT'S tough becoming a star, but hanging on to that stellar slot is even harder. That's why even the most popular movie stars keep looking for unusual roles to play to continually surprise their fans and expand their range as movie performers.

Before the year is over, we can expect to see these unusual screen portrayals turned in by Hollywood's top luminaries:

Personal assistant

Julia Roberts as the personal assistant to a superstar (Catherine Zeta-Jones) in "America's Sweetheart." This is a complete role reversal for Roberts, who played another superstar in "Notting Hill" only a couple of years ago.

The movie is also a big move for Zeta-Jones who is touted to be a superstar in the making herself, specially after she married the powerful Michael Douglas.

Robot

Child actor Haley Joel Osment, who zoomed up to stardom playing a boy who saw dead people in "The Sixth Sense" just two years ago, has another attention-calling role in his next movie, Steven Spielberg's "A.I.—Artificial Intelligence": he plays a robot!

The conflict for Osment's character is the fact that he feels out of place among both humans and machines. The movie also stars Jude Law and Frances O'Connor.

In "Driven," Sylvester Stallone plays a veteran car racer who's hired to coach a hot young comer all the way to the championship. In his past actioners, Stallone has fought in the right and clambered up steep precipices, but this is the first time he's cheating death on the fast lane.

Lost soul

In "Angel Eyes," Jennifer Lopez plays a cop who falls in love with a lost soul (Jim Caviezel).

In "One Night at Mc Cool's," Liv Tayler roughs up her image and plays an opportunistic vixen who ruthlessly preys on the innocent likes of John Goodman, Matt Dillon and Paul Reiser.

For the first time in his long and eventful acting career, Nick Nolte plays a billionaire in "The Golden Bowl." Kate Beckinsdale is cast as his daughter, and Uma Thurman and Jeremy Northam play their respective spouses.

Knight

After making it big as Mel Gibson's son in "The Patriot," Heath Ledger masquerades as a knight in "A Knight's Tale," winning jousting tournaments and the heart of his lady love in this romance set in the Middle Ages.

In "The Man Who Cried," Christina Ricci plays a Jewish singer forced to choose between love and life as World War Two breaks out.

In "Swordfish," John Travolta portrays a CIA agent who turns traitor and masterminds the theft of billions of dollars in government money. Halle Berry and Hugh Jackman co-star.

Action heroine

Angelina Jolie has an even more radical change of image in the works. In "Tomb Raider," she plays no less than cartoon action heroine Laura Croft on a global quest to stop some power-mad conspirators.

In "The Curse of the Jade Scorpion," Woody Allen's latest comedy film, he plays a 1940s insurance investigator who is zapped by an ancient artifact's hypnotic powers.

In "Happy Accidents," Vincent D'Onofrio is cast as a time traveller from the year 2470!

In "Shrek," Mike Myers voices the character of an ogre.

Lethal virus

And Chris Rock and Laurence Fishburne provide the voices of a white blood cell and a lethal virus, respectively, in "Osmosis Jones." The man whose body is host to their deadly duel is played by Bill Murray.

Finally, pop diva Mariah Carey plays her first film role in "All that Glitters," where she's cast as a singer trying to rise above her past and the pressures of fame.

It'll be fun seeing these stars playing these unconventional characters. With these and other unusual portrayals, moviegoing won't be lacking in surprises in the months to come!

ROBERTS (left) plays the personal assistant to a superstar (Zeta-Jones) in "America's Sweetheart."

Movies on TV this week

ON the HBO Channel, Saturday, May 12, 6:30 a.m., "The Sentinel." 8:15 a.m., "Outside Ozona." 10 a.m., "My Little Assassin." 11:30 a.m., "The Spring." 1 p.m., "Second Honeymoon." 2:30 p.m., "Crash Point Zero." 4 p.m., "My Stepmother is an Alien." 5:45 p.m., "Reach the Rock." 7:30 p.m., "Deep Core." 9 p.m., "American Beauty." 11 p.m., "Rush Hour." 12:40 a.m., "Dance With Me." 2:45 a.m., "Force 10 From Navarone." 5 a.m., "Slaughterhouse Rock."

'Wag the Dog'

Sunday, May 13, 6:30 a.m., "Thick as Thieves." 8 a.m., "Paternity." 9:45 a.m., "Wag the Dog." 11:30 a.m., "The Girl Next Door." 1:15 p.m., "Jewel." 3 p.m., "Legacy." 4:45 p.m., "Forever Young." 6:30 p.m., "The Iron Giant." 8 p.m., "Single White Female." 9:45 p.m., "Star Trek Insurrection." 11:30 p.m., "Hero." 1:25 a.m., "Uncle Buck." 3:15 a.m., "Absence of the Good." 5 a.m., "Forbidden Sins."

Monday, May 14, 6:30 a.m., "Trading Places." 8:30 a.m., "Where The Buffalo Roam." 10:15 a.m., "The Great Outdoors." 12 p.m., "Almost Heroes." 1:30 p.m., "American Movie." 3:15 p.m., "The Perfect Tenant." 5 p.m., "The Burbs." 6:45 p.m., "Backdraft." 9 p.m., "Can't Hardly Wait." 11 p.m., "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer." 12:40 a.m., "Mutiny." 2:15 a.m., "The Outsider." 4:15 a.m., "Backdraft."

Tuesday, May 15, 6:30 a.m., "The Big Hit." 8 a.m., "All American Girl: The Mary Kay Letourneau Story." 9:30 a.m., "White Dog." 11:15 a.m., "Addams Family Values." 1 p.m., "Les Miserables (1998)." 3:15 p.m., "Whatever." 5 p.m., "The Dream Team." 7 p.m., "A League of their Own." 9 p.m., "Antz." 10:30 p.m., "Sex and the City 24: La Douleur Exquise/ 25: Games People Play/ 27: Shortcomings" 12 a.m., "Second Honeymoon." 1:30 a.m., "Les Miserables (1998)" 3:45 a.m., "A League of their Own."

ANNETTE Bening stars in "American Beauty" airing today at 9 p.m. on HBO.

Wednesday, May 16, 6 a.m., "Slaughterhouse Rock." 7:30 a.m., "Criminal Instinct: The Wandering Soul Murders." 9 a.m.,"Deep Core." 10:30 a.m., "A Father's Choice." 12 p.m., "The Spring." 1:30 p.m., "Force 10 from Navarone." 3:45 p.m., "Before He Wakes." 5:30 p.m., "Racing With the Moon." 7:15 p.m., "Rush Hour." 9 p.m., "The Corrs: Live at Wembley Arena (HBO Concert Special)" 10:30 p.m., "Crash Point Zero." 12 a.m., "American Beauty." 1:55 a.m., "The Sentinel." 3:30 a.m., "Tick-Tock." 5 a.m., "Rush Hour."

'Matrix'

Thursday, May 17, 6:30 a.m., "The Girl Next Door." 8:15 a.m., "The Outsider." 10:30 a.m., "Santa and Pete." 12 p.m., "Matrix." 2:15 p.m., "Kidnapped in Paradise." 4 p.m., "Implicated." 5:30 p.m., "Absence of the Good." 7:15 p.m., "Forever Young." 9 p.m., "Lost and Found." 11 p.m., "Single White Female." 12:50 a.m., "Where The Buffalo Roam." 2:30 a.m., "Matrix." 4:45 a.m., "Outside Ozona."

Friday, May 18, 6:30 a.m., "Double Platinum." 8:15 a.m., "Reach the Rock." 10 a.m., "Backdraft." 12:30 p.m., "Born in East L.A." 2 p.m., "Dance With Me." 4 p.m., "The Iron Giant." 5:30 p.m., "Houdini." 7:15 p.m., "Legacy." 9 p.m., "Wild Wild West." 11 p.m., "Blade." 1 a.m., "Sex and The City 24: La Douleur Exquise/ 25: Games people Play/ 27: Shortcomings." 2:30 a.m., "Dark Tides." 4 a.m., "Legacy."

'Phantom of the Rue Morgue'

On the Cinemax channel, Saturday, May 12, 6 a.m., "Hit List." 7:45 a.m., "Jane and The Lost City." 9:15 a.m., "Primal Force." 10:45 a.m., "Map of The Human Heart." 12:30 p.m., "Dying to Live." 2 p.m., "Phantom of The Rue Morgue." 3:30 p.m., "A Stranger Among Us." 5:30 p.m., "Purgatory." 7:15 p.m., "Wanted Dead or Alive." 9 p.m., "Frank Herbert's Dune Part 2." 10:45 p.m., "Primal Force." 12:15 a.m., "Cruel Intentions." 1:50 a.m., "Pirates of Silicon Valley." 3:30 a.m., "Mo' Money." 5 a.m., "A Child Lost Forever."

Sunday, May 13, 6:30 a.m., "D.C. Cab." 8 a.m., "Dead Husbands." 9:30 a.m., "Return to Paradise." 11:30 a.m., "Cypress Edge." 1 p.m., "Looking for Alibrandi." 2:45 p.m., "The Final Cut." 4:30 p.m., "My American Vacation." 6 p.m., "Deadly Relations." 7:30 p.m., "Terror in the Mall." 9 p.m., "Frank Herbert's Dune Part 3." 10:45 p.m., "Return to Paradise." 12:40 a.m., "976-Evil II." 2:15 a.m., "Dead Husbands." 4 a.m., "Sweet Liberty."

Monday, May 14, 6 a.m., "White Palace." 7:45 a.m., "Hoods." 9:15 a.m., "Money Kings." 10:45 a.m., "Police Academy 6 City Under Siege." 12:15 p.m., "Celebrity Profiles: Gene Hackman." 1 p.m., "Friday The 13th Part VII—The New Blood." 2:30 p.m., "Sweet Revenge." 4 p.m., "Us." 5:45 p.m., "Maid to Order." 7:15 p.m., "The Silencer." 9 p.m., "10." 11 p.m., "Sweet Revenge." 12:35 a.m., "White Palace." 2:15 a.m., "Friday The 13th Part VII—The New Blood." 4 a.m., "Barton Fink."

'For Whom the Bell Tolls'

Tuesday, May 15, 6 a.m., "The Right Temptation." 7:30 a.m., "Phantom of the Rue Morgue." 9 a.m., "The Fifth Corner." 10:30 a.m., "Dying to Live." 12 p.m., "Harris Down Under." 1:45 p.m., "A Twist of Faith." 3:30 p.m., "Third Degree Burn." 5 p.m., "Florence Nightingale." 7:15 p.m., "Mickey Blue Eyes." 9 p.m., "Cat People." 10:45 p.m., "Dying to Live." 12:15 a.m., "The Right Temptation." 1:50 a.m., "For Whom The Bell Tolls." 4:45 a.m., "Mickey Blue Eyes."

Wednesday, May 16, 6:30 a.m., "Beyond Justice." 8:15 a.m., "Nightmares." 10 a.m., "Texas Across The River." 11:45 a.m., "Pirates of Silicon Valley." 1:30 p.m., "Valentine's Day." 3 p.m., "Jane and The Lost City." 4:30 p.m., "Looking for Alibrandi." 6:15 p.m., "Celebrity Profiles: John Travolta." 7:15 p.m., "My Girl." 9 p.m., "Meet Joe Black." 11:55 p.m., "Beyond Justice." 1:30 a.m., "D.C. Cab." 3:15 a.m., "Valentine's Day." 4:45 a.m., "Nightmares."

'A Stranger Among Us'

Thursday, May 17, 6:30 a.m., "Friday The 13th Part VII—The New Blood." 8 a.m., "Deadly Relations." 9:45 a.m., "Map of the Human Heart." 11:45 a.m., "The First 9 ½ Weeks." 1:15 p.m., "Cypress Edge." 2:45 p.m., "White Tiger." 4:15 p.m., "The Curse of the Mummy's Tomb." 5:45 p.m., "A Stranger Among Us." 7:30 p.m., "Purgatory." 9 p.m., "A Soldier's Sweetheart." 10:45 p.m., "Friday 13th Part VII—The New Blood." 12:10 a.m., "Wanted Dead or Alive." 1:50 a.m., "Map of the Human Heart." 3:30 a.m., "Police Academy 6 City Under Siege." 5 a.m., "Purgatory."

Friday, May 18, 6:30 a.m., "Us." 8 a.m., "The Big Chill." 9:45 a.m., "My American Vacation." 11:15 a.m., "10." 1:15 p.m., "A Child Lost Forever." 2:45 p.m., "Hit List." 4:15 p.m., "The Silencer." 5:45 p.m., "Dead Husbands." 7:15 p.m., "Meet Prince Charming." 9 p.m., "Bloodfist III Forced to Fight." 10:30 p.m., "Cruel Intentions." 12:10 a.m., "Suicide Kings." 2 a.m., "10." 4 a.m., "Celebrity Profiles: John Travolta." 5 a.m., "Hoods."

The exceptions . . .

(From page F5)

honor for her pure love and selfless dedication to great Spencer Tracy in his farewell film. In quick succession, she also was honored for "Lion in Winter" when she tied with Barbra Streisand and Henry Fonda's valedictory starrer "On Golden Pond."

Prudent Katharine never talked about her relationship with Tracy except in professional terms. When it became obvious that they were a steady item although the actor never took any steps to divorce his wife to marry her, a daring reporter asked Ms. Hepburn if she loved Tracy. Her cloaked answer simply was "Everyone loves Mr. Tracy."

The world of mortals persists to dream of a great Hollywood romance. They want longevity along with the test of time. Such a lasting union albeit unconventional in every way is the Hepburn-Tracy partnership. It has the ingredients that make for a prize-winning romantic and contemporary script in the league with "Sleepless in New York."

Above all, it is a matchless love story of two independent and legendary Hollywood stars who maintained a dynamic relationship that remained enigmatic because the consenting pair preferred to keep the affair their business despite a nosey press and an intruding public who wanted to know what made a union of such temperamental stars work despite Hollywood, despite the odds against such an unexpected success.

The Spencer-Hepburn union baffled the world. It thrilled them as well because their partnership proved that when someone, in this case the devoted Katherine works at a relationship, it can endure the test of time and conflicting personalities. Hollywood and the admiring world had a lot to learn from the stalwart and upfront Kate and the moody and withdrawn Spencer on the meaning of love, partnership and, yes, faithfulness, unconventional though the demonstration of them may have been.

To the end, it was Mr. Spencer Tracy and Ms. Katharine Hepburn, man and woman, a loving pair and a romantic duo. And, by the way yes, till death did them part.

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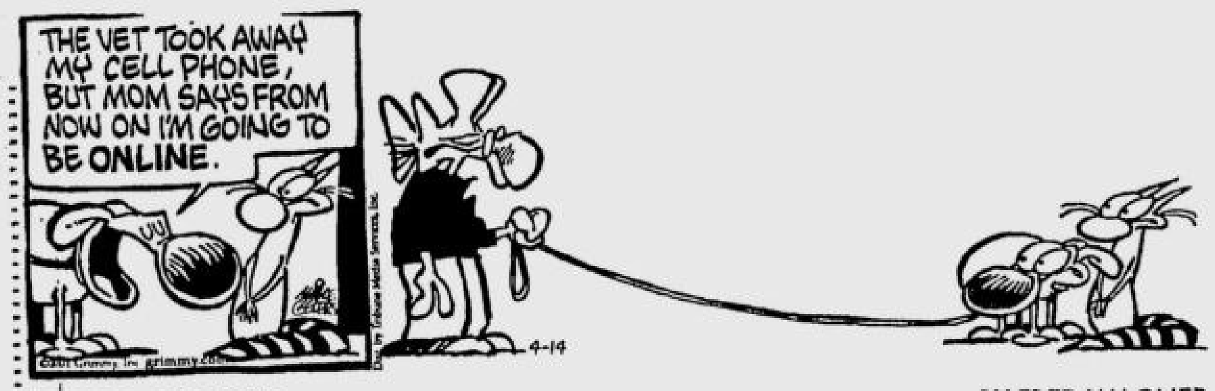
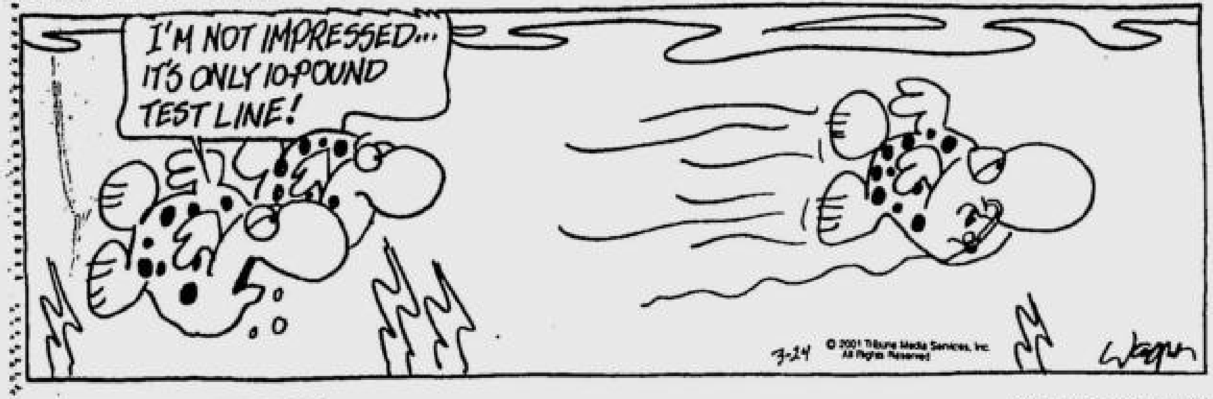

THE VET TOOK AWAY MY CELL PHONE, BUT MOM SAYS FROM NOW ON I'M GOING TO BE ONLINE.
grimmy.com
4-14

ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


I'M NOT IMPRESSED... IT'S ONLY 10-POUND TEST LINE!
3-24
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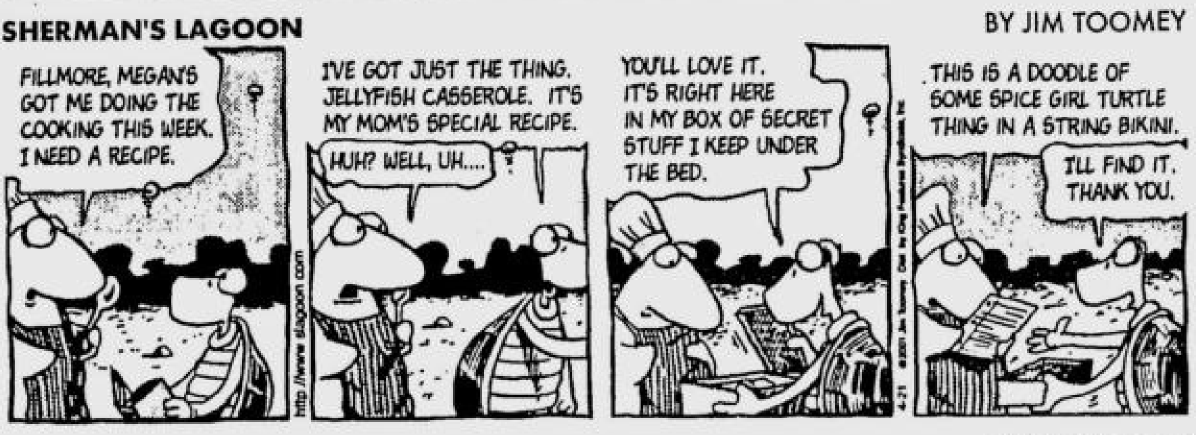
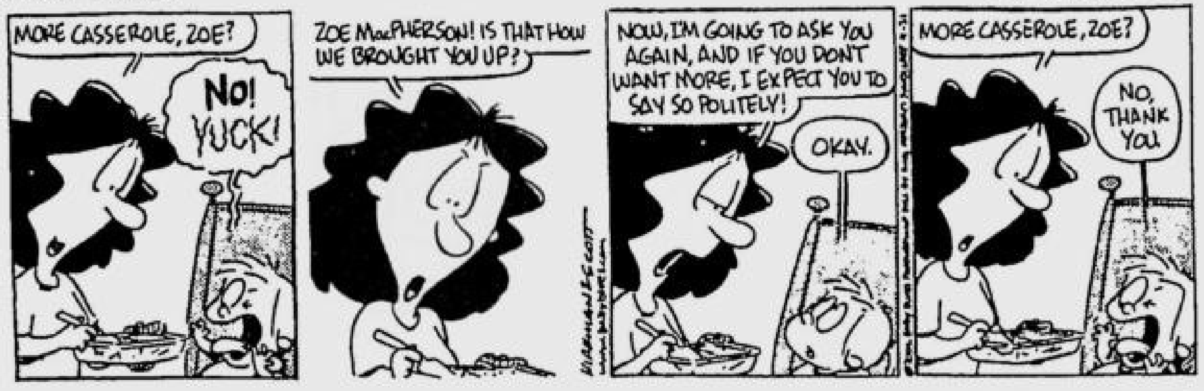
Wagner

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


FILLMORE, MEGAN'S GOT ME DOING THE COOKING THIS WEEK. I NEED A RECIPE.
I'VE GOT JUST THE THING. JELLYFISH CASSEROLE. IT'S MY MOM'S SPECIAL RECIPE.
HUH? WELL, UH....
YOU'LL LOVE IT. IT'S RIGHT HERE IN MY BOX OF SECRET STUFF I KEEP UNDER THE BED.
THIS IS A DOODLE OF SOME SPICE GIRL TURTLE THING IN A STRING BIKINI.
I'LL FIND IT. THANK YOU.
http://www.slagoon.com
4-21

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


MORE CASSEROLE, ZOE?
NO! YUCK!
ZOE MacPHERSON! IS THAT HOW WE BROUGHT YOU UP?
NOW, I'M GOING TO ASK YOU AGAIN, AND IF YOU DON'T WANT MORE, I EXPECT YOU TO SAY SO POLITELY!
OKAY.
MORE CASSEROLE, ZOE?
NO, THANK YOU.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Katharine Hepburn, Emilio Estevez, George Carlin, Ving Rhames, Stephen Baldwin, Jason Biggs

Happy Birthday: Don't let stubbornness stand in the way of advancement this year. Compromise and getting along with others will be required to make headway with your plans. You have a terrific aptitude for finding solutions to obstacles, but without the help of others, it will be difficult to implement your ideas. Your numbers: 9, 12, 13, 22, 28, 30

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let the little things bother you so much. Go out with friends who will lift your spirits. Changes in your living arrangements will be necessary. Do whatever you can to improve your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's time to clean house. Get rid of objects that are no longer needed. Re-evaluate your intentions and avoid those individuals who are holding you back. Put your cash in a safe place.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will enjoy yourself more if you include an older family member in your plans. He or she needs to get out, too. Take your time and make the day enjoyable for everyone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll have trouble controlling your emotions. Don't nag your mate too much, or you'll find yourself spending the evening alone. You need to direct your energy into productive projects.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Plan some lively entertainment for you and your mate. Get out and paint the town red. You may not be able to afford it, but you do deserve it. Don't worry; just enjoy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have a good eye for what's worthwhile and what's not. Go to flea markets or attend auctions. You may find a real bargain.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be prepared to deal with overindulgent individuals. Be careful not to leave the house without checking the essentials, the stove, furnace, lights, etc. You can never be too careful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will find others insightful. If you listen and observe, the information you pick up will be valuable. You will feel extremely fortunate if you compare yourself to others. You're not nearly as badly off as you thought.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll have to make a fast financial decision. Set a cash figure and don't spend more, regardless of the consequences. You'll be glad that you stuck to your budget in the long run.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your emotions have been difficult to control. It is easy for others to misinterpret you. Be careful how you handle the people you live with.

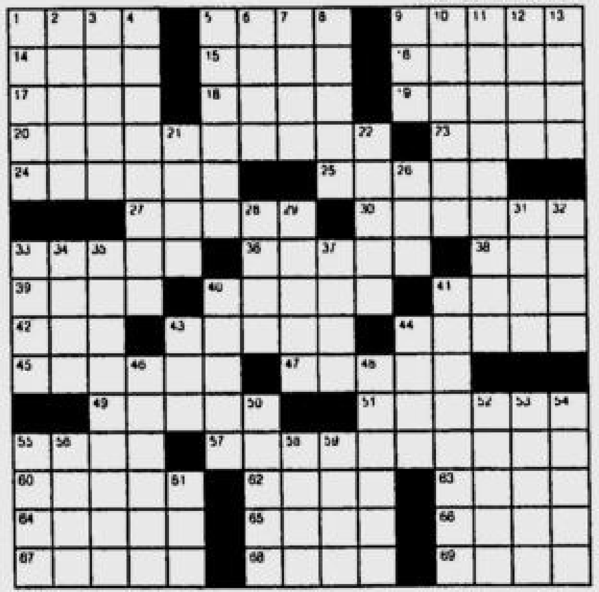
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Problems while en route will cause delays. Make sure that your papers are in order. Don't speed if you are taking a car trip. You need to relax and enjoy yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Participate in humanitarian groups. Your talent for helping the sick will come into play. Be prepared to make personal decisions that will alter your future.

Birthday Baby: "Always into something" best describes you. You are so curious and imaginative that it will be difficult for others to follow your train of thought. You have plenty to offer and will certainly be a leader of your peers.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Roger Coburn
Summerville, GA
3/27/01

ACROSS
1 Detonator cord
5 Without: Fr.
9 Specialized slang
14 Lodges
15 Transport-loss allowance
16 Stuffed __ (kishke)
17 Mad mob
18 Emerald land
19 Put up with
20 Union headquarters?
23 Black cuckoos
24 Abounded
25 Egg-shaped
27 Williams of "Happy Days"
30 Ready
33 Garrets
36 Nary a soul
38 Caustic stuff
39 Malaria symptom
40 Barrels
41 Senator Jake the astronaut
42 Sick
43 Sound adjuster
44 Dubbed
45 Penn's partner in magic
47 Bit of info
49 Late or new ending
51 Skilled ones
55 Moises or Felipe
57 Two features on a Broadway bill?
60 Audible waves
62 Suspicious of
63 Quiet time
64 Neighbor of Fiji
65 Knock senseless
66 Leaning precariously
67 Web-footed mammal
68 Throw
69 Genesis man

DOWN
1 Preceding all others
2 Join together
3 Night sound
4 Guess
5 Spirited horses
6 Neighbor of N.Mex.
7 Stout's Wolfe
8 Shorthand, for short
9 Promos
10 Sell direct
11 Thousand dollar hit?
12 Present starter?
13 Small boys
21 Griffey and Kesey
22 Roy's Dale
26 Grand __ Opry
28 Son of Judah
29 Nuzzled
31 "Jane __"
32 Be inclined
33 Cafe au __
34 Leer at
35 After-dinner Dracula?
37 Gumbo ingredient
40 Made well
41 Player's strategy
43 Pres. pro __
44 Unclothed
46 Waiting room
48 Condor's weapons
50 Perch
52 Ninth planet
53 Shire of "Rocky"
54 Graceful girl
55 Concerning
56 Spoils taken
58 Do-others separator
59 A/C figures
61 __ es Salaam

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

M	A	T	T		A	C	T	S		G	R	I	E	F
O	G	R	E		P	L	O	T		R	A	T	S	O
R	O	A	R		S	A	N	A		E	N	T	E	R
T	R	I	C	K	O	R	T	R	E	A	T			
E	A	T	E	N		I	O	T	A	S		J	O	B
			L	O	A	N			R	E	M	O	V	E
A	S	P		W	R	E	N	S			O	K	I	E
S	I	L	E	N	T	T	R	E	A	T	M	E	N	T
W	E	E	D			S	A	P	P	Y		D	E	S
A	G	A	S	S	I			T	E	L	E			
N	E	T		A	R	O	S	E		E	D	I	T	S
			T	R	E	A	T	M	E	R	I	G	H	T
P	L	A	I	T		T	U	B	A		C	L	E	O
T	I	G	E	R		E	K	E	S		T	O	I	L
A	D	O	R	E		R	A	R	E		S	O	R	E

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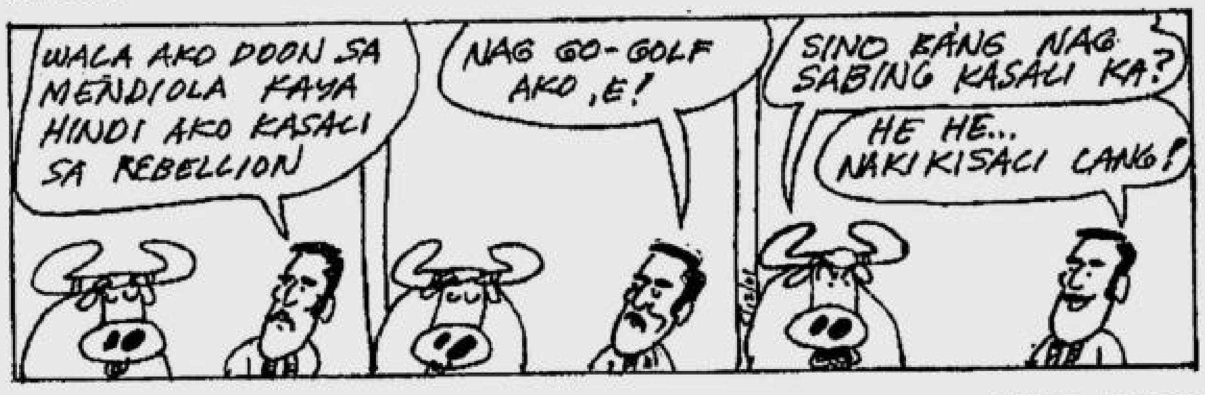
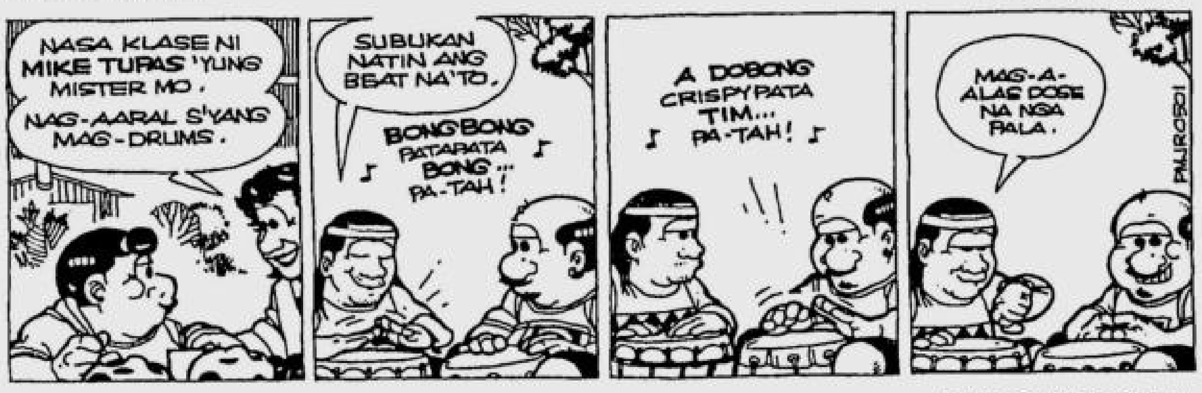
3/27/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

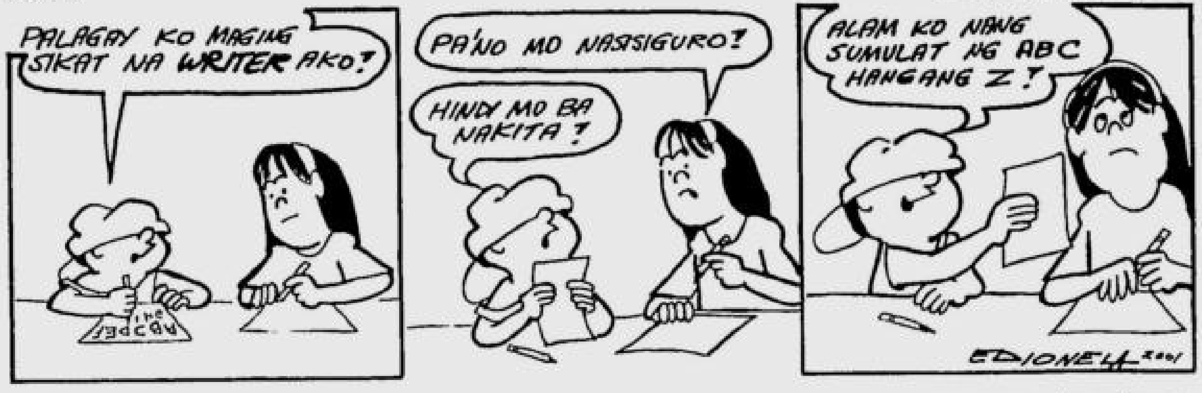
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


WALA AKO DOON SA MENDIOLA KAYA HINDI AKO KASALI SA REBELLION
NAG GO-GOLF AKO, E!
SINO BANG NAG SABING KASALI KA?
HE HE... NAKIKISALI LANG!

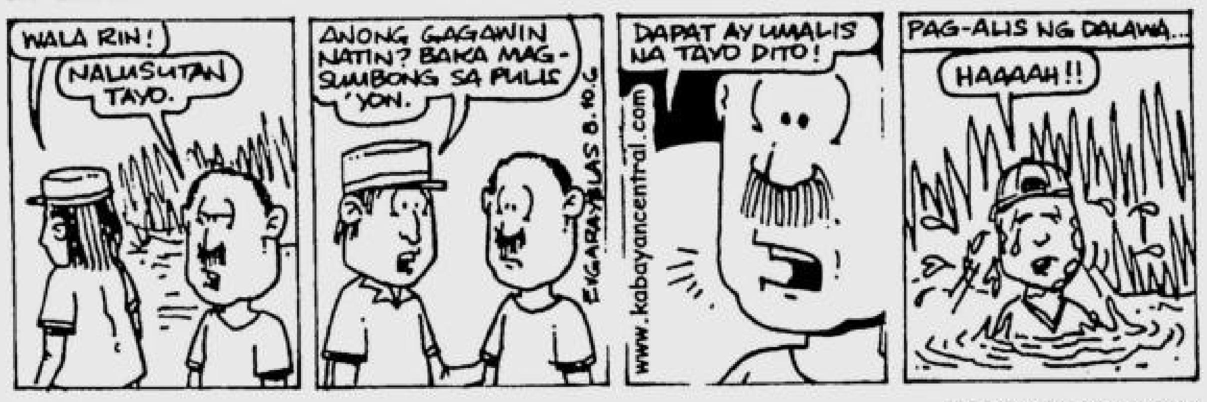
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


NASA KLASE NI MIKE TUPAS 'YUNG MISTER MO.
NAG-AARAL S'YANG MAG-DRUMS.
SUBUKAN NATIN ANG BEAT NA'TO.
BONG BONG PATAPATA BONG... PA-TAH!
A DOBONG CRISPYPATA TIM... PA-TAH!
MAG-A-ALAS DOSE NA NGA PALA.
PAJR0501

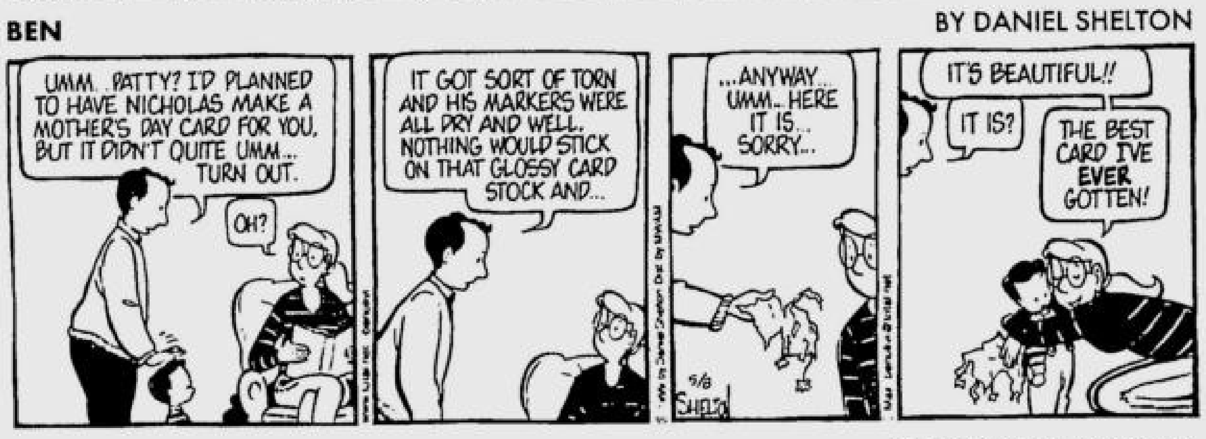
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


PALAGAY KO MAGING SIKAT NA WRITER AKO?
PA'NO MO NASISIGURO?
HINDI MO BA NAKITA?
ALAM KO NANG SUMULAT NG ABC HANGANG Z?
EDIONELA 2001

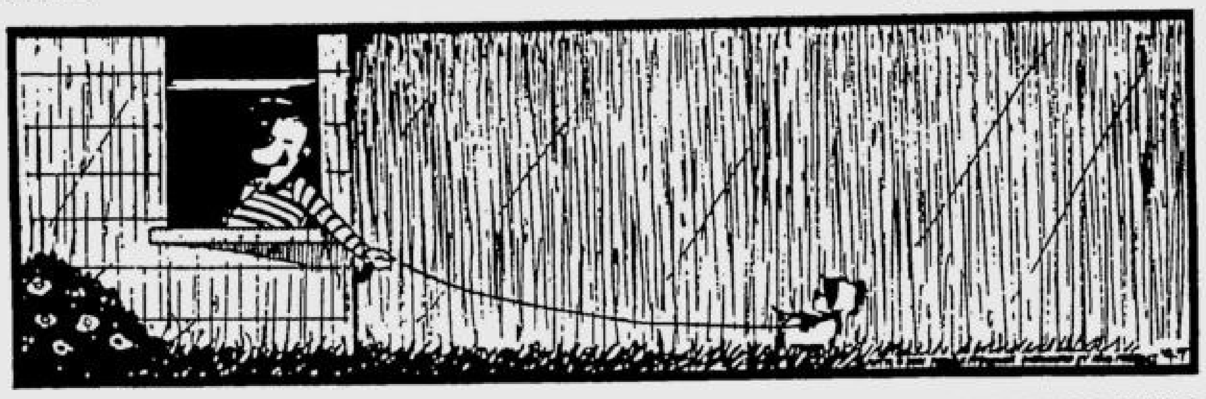
B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


WALA RIN!
NALUSUTAN TAYO.
ANONG GAGAWIN NATIN? BAKA MAG-SUMBONG SA PULIS 'YON.
DAPAT AY UMALIS NA TAYO DITO!
PAG-ALIS NG DALAWA...
HAAAAH!!
www.kabayancentral.com

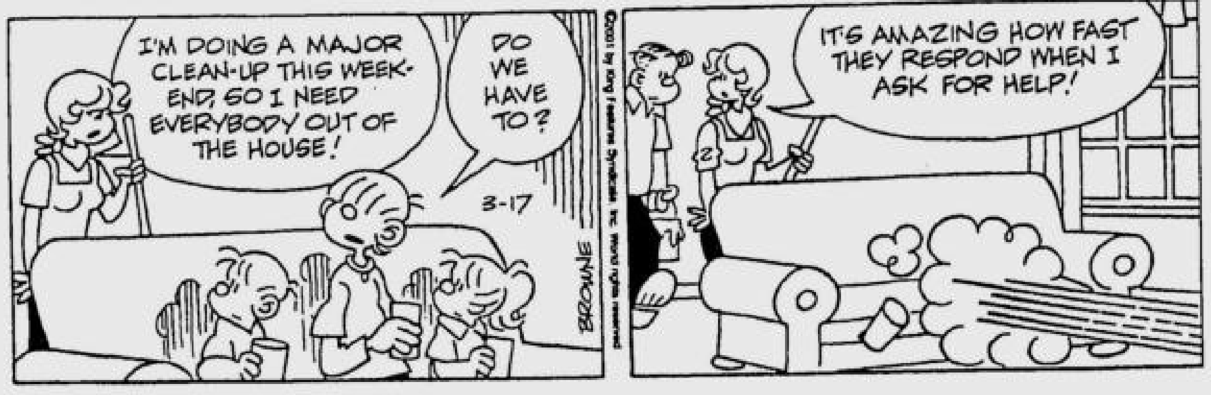
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


UMM.. PATTY? I'D PLANNED TO HAVE NICHOLAS MAKE A MOTHER'S DAY CARD FOR YOU, BUT IT DIDN'T QUITE UMM... TURN OUT.
OH?
IT GOT SORT OF TORN AND HIS MARKERS WERE ALL DRY AND WELL.. NOTHING WOULD STICK ON THAT GLOSSY CARD STOCK AND...
...ANYWAY... UMM.. HERE IT IS... SORRY...
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!!
IT IS?
THE BEST CARD I'VE EVER GOTTEN!
5/8
SHELTON

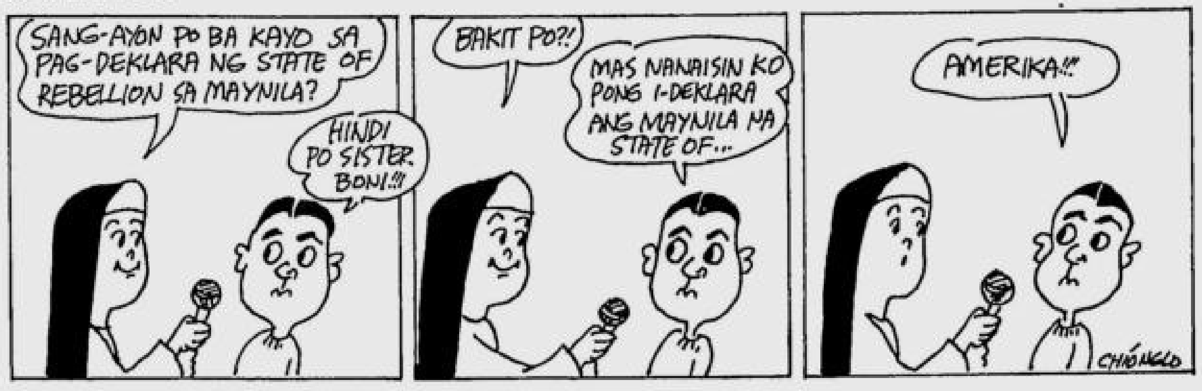
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



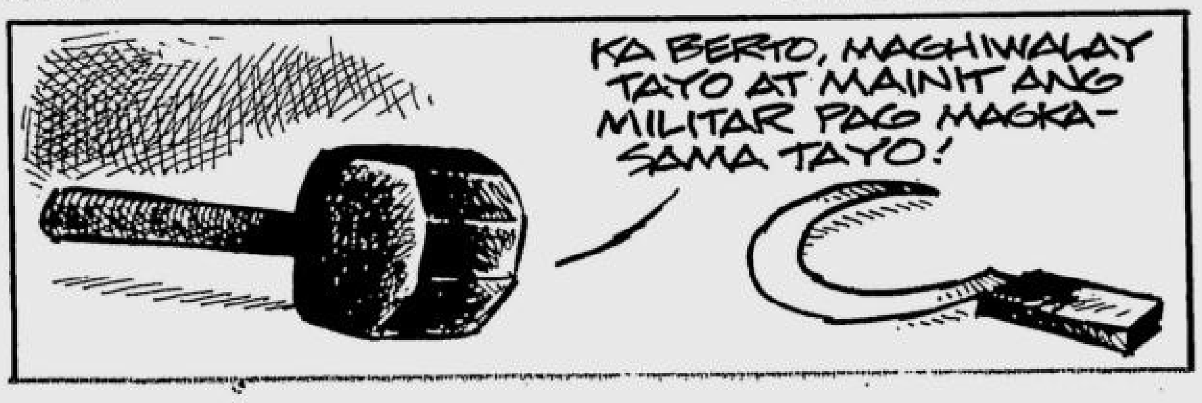
HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


I'M DOING A MAJOR CLEAN-UP THIS WEEK-END, SO I NEED EVERYBODY OUT OF THE HOUSE!
DO WE HAVE TO?
3-17
BROWNE
IT'S AMAZING HOW FAST THEY RESPOND WHEN I ASK FOR HELP!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SANG-AYON PO BA KAYO SA PAG-DEKLARA NG STATE OF REBELLION SA MAYNILA?
HINDI PO SISTER BONI!!!
BAKIT PO?!
MAS NANAISIN KO PONG I-DEKLARA ANG MAYNILA NA STATE OF...
AMERIKA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


KA BERTO, MAGHIWALAY TAYO AT MAINIT ANG MILITAR PAG MAGKA-SAMA TAYO!

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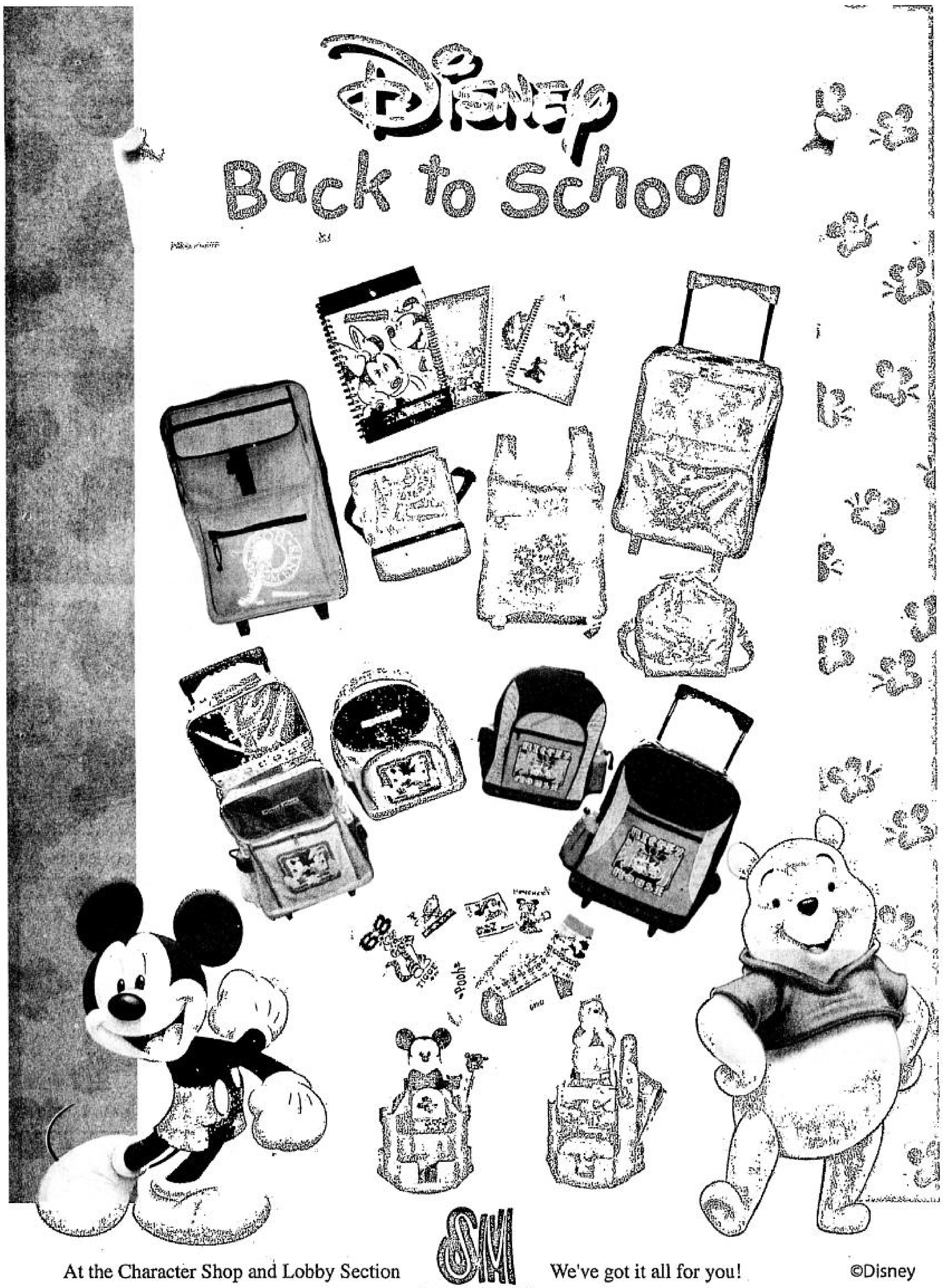

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'The Producers' snags 15 Tony nominations

NEW YORK—The wild, rapid success of the Broadway musical comedy "The Producers"—based on Mel Brooks's 1968 film by the same name—was confirmed many times over Monday as it garnered 15 nominations for this year's Tony Awards, Broadway's answer to the Oscars.

The only other musical to garner as many nominations was the musical "Company," in 1971.

In addition to the much anticipated nomination for Best Musical, lead actors Matthew Broderick and Nathan Lane received nods for their respective roles as a scheming producer and a neurotic accountant who dream up a madcap get-rich-quick scheme.

Low-budget play

Under their plan, the characters decide to raise a large sum of money to put on a low-budget Broadway play that is sure to fail and laugh all the way to the bank when it closes a day after its premiere.

But the plan goes hilariously awry, and the pair's would-be bomb, "Springtime for Hitler," turns into a smash hit.

Since its April 20 premiere, "The Producers"—like its make-believe play—has been a huge winner on Broadway.

But it still faces some stiff competition from the musical "The Full Monty," based on a movie in which a group of unemployed men decide to perform a one-time striptease act to earn some much-needed cash.

Also up for Best Musical are "Jane Eyre," based on the novel by Charlotte Bronte, and "A Class Act," a tribute to composer Ed Kleban.

BINOCHE. Nominated for her performance in "Betrayal."

Best Play

Competing for Best Play are "Proof," by Pulitzer Prize-winner August Wilson; "King Hedley II"; "The Invention of Love"; and "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife."

French actress Juliette Binoche received a nod for her role in "Betrayal," competing against Mary-Louise Parker of "Proof," Linda Lavin of "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife," Jean Smart of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" and Leslie Uggams of "King Hedley II."

The awards ceremony will be held June 3 at New York's Radio City Music Hall. *AFP*

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

Famous interviewers share their trade secrets

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

APART from Koppel, featured in the book "Interviewing the World's Top Interviewers" are NBC News commentator John Chancellor; Robert MacNeil, co-host and interviewer of PBS's "MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour;" Roger Mudd, also an interviewer for the "Macneil/Lehrer News Hour;" and Nicholas Pileggi, author of non-fiction books and a New York reporter.

Polite

These men prefer to use a non-confrontational and non-prosecuting mode of interviewing, and when they do turn on the heat, they remain as polite as ever.

For Chancellor, interviewing "came out of our own curiosity" and the elements of a good interview are "homework, courtesy, and a determination to get as much as you can out of the person being interviewed, without becoming a bully."

These thoughts are echoed by MacNeil, who also thinks that a good interviewer should "enjoy asking questions." Mudd, too, lays emphasis on curiosity and said that he tries "never to ask a question that can be answered with a yes or no."

As for Pileggi, he believes that "the most important thing going into an interview is your knowing so much about it that you wouldn't even need the interview. The interview just carries you over."

The book's third section, "Interviewing Celebrities," tackles celebrity interviews, which are generally thought of as fun and gossipy, not at all like news interviews. Mudd, a newsman himself, said that these are "so mindless, really."

Special correspondent

Not everyone agrees with him, though—especially the journalists in this section. Included are Barbara Walters, co-host and interviewer of ABC's "20/20" and "Specials;" Marie Brenner, book journalist and special correspondent for Vanity Fair; Thomas B. Morgan, writer and broadcast executive; Diane Sawyer, co-anchor of ABC's "Prime Time Live;" and Dick Cavett, television interviewer.

Walters starts preparing for an interview by asking herself, "What do I want to know?" and "What does the public really want to know?" She usually sits very close to her guests and tries "to make it just the two of us."

Walters has interviewed so many celebrities already, most of whom she was able to disarm, that she has become famous in her own right.

Brenner spoke of interviewing as a process of seduction. "You want the person you're interviewing to respond to you, because if they respond to you, then you can loosen them up. And if you loosen them up, they'll really let their hair down and talk to you."

Morgan said that interviewing is "a delicate game, a very savage battle—complicated and savage." Sawyer, on the other hand, refers to interviewing as a dance.

WALTERS. Disarming celebrities.

The book's last two sections—"Exploring an Issue" and "Exploring a Mind"—cover journalists who "devote all or part of their professional lives to in-depth explorations."

In "Exploring an Issue" are Ken Aulletta, newspaper and historical writer; Studs Terkel, writer and radio interviewer; Gay Talese, writer, and Phil Donahue, talk show host.

Auletta believes that "successful interviews begin softly." "I don't confront people," he said. "I try to make them relax, try to win their confidence." Pulitzer Prize-winner Salisbury also goes for the soft approach. "I don't care much for the Mike Wallace type of interview," he said, "I don't think it produces very much."

The journalists included in "Exploring a Mind" possess the curiosity many of the individuals in this book talk about—the difference is, their curiosity about one person is intense.

Staff writer

There are only two journalists featured here—The New Yorker staff writer Susan Sheenah and PBS interviewer Bill Moyers.

It is important for Moyers that "an interviewer should do his homework: he has to know what the person means. A good interviewer is a good student, above all."

Sheenah finds patience crucial in interviewing. "In a good interview," she said, "I get what I want to know to the best of the person's ability to tell it. That takes a lot of time."

She also has a warning for aspiring interviewers and writers: "I would tell someone never to enter this work; you won't be able to make a living at it!"

All 19 of the journalists featured in this book have different styles in conducting interviews, but they have one thing in common—they get what they want from people who never knew what hit them. Now, if only there are more folks like them on Philippine television, how much more interesting things would be!

McCARTNEY. Admits that it took him quite a while to stop hoping for a second Beatlemania.

Saturday SPECIAL

McCartney reflects on yesterday with 'Wingspan'

Aside from his greatest hits compilation, the ex-Beatle has released a TV movie featuring intimate moments from his family's life

BERLIN—Sir Paul McCartney Monday released a greatest hits compilation from his time with Wings, the band he formed with his late wife Linda, together with a television movie featuring intimate moments from the couple's family life.

Screaming fans

The former Beatle presented the project, called "Wingspan," to reporters in the German capital as hundreds of screaming fans waited outside for the legendary pop star to sign copies of the album, which includes hits such as "Band on the Run" and "Live and Let Die" as well as more obscure tracks.

The two compact discs are called "Hits" and "History."

"We put all the big sellers on the first one, and then the other one has the other songs that we didn't feel we could leave off. That's where all the history is, the favorites," he said.

The TV movie includes concert scenes of the band McCartney, 58, formed in 1971 with Linda after the breakup of the Beatles, as well as scenes from their 30-year-long marriage.

The film was edited by McCartney's son-in-law Alistair Donald, who is married to his daughter Mary, based on an idea Linda had had several years before to compile a surprise video for Paul from home movies.

"They worked together on home movies of the children growing up and all the family movies," he said.

"It's very emotional seeing your children grow up, in an hour. When we looked at it, we said that would make a great TV program. What we should do is tell the story of Wings and the family."

Linda died of breast cancer in 1998 at the age of 56.

On the constant comparisons between Wings and the Beatles, McCartney said it took him a while to stop hoping for a second Beatlemania.

"Because the Beatles were so successful and Wings didn't start at a very high level, we decided to go back and learn it all again, so a lot of the Wings stuff was in the shadow of the Beatles so everything got compared to the Beatles, and even I complained.

No Beatles songs

"But as the years went by, we knew we were making a really good group. We refused to do Beatles songs for many, many years with Wings. (That is) why now is the time, the project is finally ready," he said.

"Wingspan" comes on the heels of last year's "1", a collection of 27 Beatles number one hits that topped charts around the world.

McCartney said he was happy to do a publicity tour for Wingspan and would have done one for "1" as well if the other surviving Beatles, George Harrison and Ringo Starr, had been willing.

"I didn't want to be the only one who went out," he joked.

McCartney said he planned to release a new pop music album this year, possibly in September, with material he recorded earlier this year.

"The only word I can think to describe (the new songs) is fresh," he said.

Sting

He said he had no plans to work with other stars from the music world but added if he were to receive an offer from Sting to collaborate, he might be interested.

"If I ever did write with anyone else, there certainly are people I still admire," he said.

"I think Sting is a good writer. I like a lot of his stuff and I think we'd probably have a lot of fun together." *AFP*

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Rage Band makes a big comeback

POPS with Star Cinema's Malou Santos.

MONTAGE

THE RAGE Band, one of the finest exponents of the glam-rock genre in the '80s is making a comeback after a hiatus of more than a decade. The group will perform tonight at the Chatterbox Galleria.

Two of its original members, Juan Miguel Salvador and Marissa Buñag, are teaming up to resurrect the band with an all new lineup of instrumentalists: Wowie Posadas on keyboards, Derrick Ileto on bass, Jose Yu on guitar and Onie Alcantara on drums. Vocalists are Marina Tolentino and Cathy Castañeda.

Their repertoire consists of well-loved "anthem songs" of the '80s including the hits of Journey, Heart, Van Halen and Prince.

Pops signs up with Star Cinema

Pops Fernandez, last seen in Viva Films' "Gusto Ko Nang Lumigaya," has signed a three-picture contract with Star Cinema. Her first movie, tentatively called "Videoke King," pairs her off with Robin Padilla.

"I am excited to do a movie with Robin," says Pops. "Even before I made a comeback to the silver screen, Robin has been asking me to make a movie with him. Unfortunately, our schedules did not permit it. Now, we're finally getting together."

The movie, which is going to be an action-drama-comedy, is a welcome break for Pops, who did two heavy dramas for Viva before signing up with Star.

Carlos Agassi on tour

Party all month with Carlos Agassi as he heats up the club scene once more with X-Project on their national tour. They will be at Venue in Davao City on May 18, Nth Degree Bar Malate on May 25, and R&B Music Venue in Angeles City on May 26.

Every Sunday, Carlos is also seen on "ASAP" where he gives viewers a regular dose of the clubbing sensation made famous here and in the US and UK scene.

Mother's Day concert

Tell mom you love her and treat her to special Mother's Day concert, "Have I Told You Lately That I Love You" tonight at 8 at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall Cinema 1.

Performing are Dulce, Anna Fegi, Michael Williams, Butch Montejo and the Opera. Toti Fuentes is the musical director.

Moms will also get a chance to win a Rado ladies watch or gift certificates worth P 3,000 from Rustan's. Tickets include coupons which entitle holders to as much as 20 percent discount at selected Shangri-La stores.

Call 726-1968.

Stella Ruiz sings

After a one-year hiatus, Stella Ruiz returns to the entertainment scene via the first concert production of Star Magic Production Int'l, Stella's management company.

The concert series kicked off at the Downtown bar of Hotel Rembrandt on May 10 and moves to Limits Disco on May 17 with KC Montero as special guest, Hard Rock Cafe on May 22 with Pasco Arrespacochaga, Sounds Stage on May 23 with Arnell Ignacio, Grilla in Libis on May 29 with Wency Cornejo and Ratsky's on May 31 with a surprise guest.

Call 890-3245.

The Corrs on HBO

The Corrs, who were originally going to perform in Manila last February, will be seen on HBO on May 16 at 9 p.m. when the cable channel airs the group's recent concert at Wembley Arena.

Other airdates are May 21 at 10:30 p.m., May 26 at 12:25 a.m. and May 29 at 3:30 p.m.

The real thing

Vicor artist Jerome Abalos, who recently launched his self-titled album, is worried. Someone's been touring the provinces billing himself as Jerome Abalos, imitating his singing style and passing himself off as the Vicor artist.

Although imitation is the best form of flattery, Jerome doesn't find the situation funny. Just recently, he performed at Love Radio's Barangay Tour at the Riverbank in Marikina to prove he was the real thing. Meanwhile, his first hit "Larawang Kupas" is doing well while his second and third singles, "Tanging Sa 'Yo" and "Baka Mayroong Iba" continue to enjoy good airplay.

Viva Cinema honors mothers

Viva Cinema salutes all mothers this May with weekly movie treats:

Susan Roces stars with Angelu de Leon in "Isinakdal Ko Ang Aking Ina" today at 8 p.m. "Bukas May Pangarap" starring Tommy Abuel, Gina Alajar and Ruben Rustia, airs on May 19. Abuel plays a farmer duped by an illegal recruiter and has to contend with unpaid debts while Alajar plays his wife who must face the disintegration of his family.

Lorna Tolentino stars in "Narito Ang Puso Ko"on May 26 at 8 p.m. with Gabby Concepcion, Nanette Medved, Mark Gil, Amy Austria, Cherry Pie Picache and Rustom Padilla. She plays a courageous mother who goes off on her own to get justice for her son.

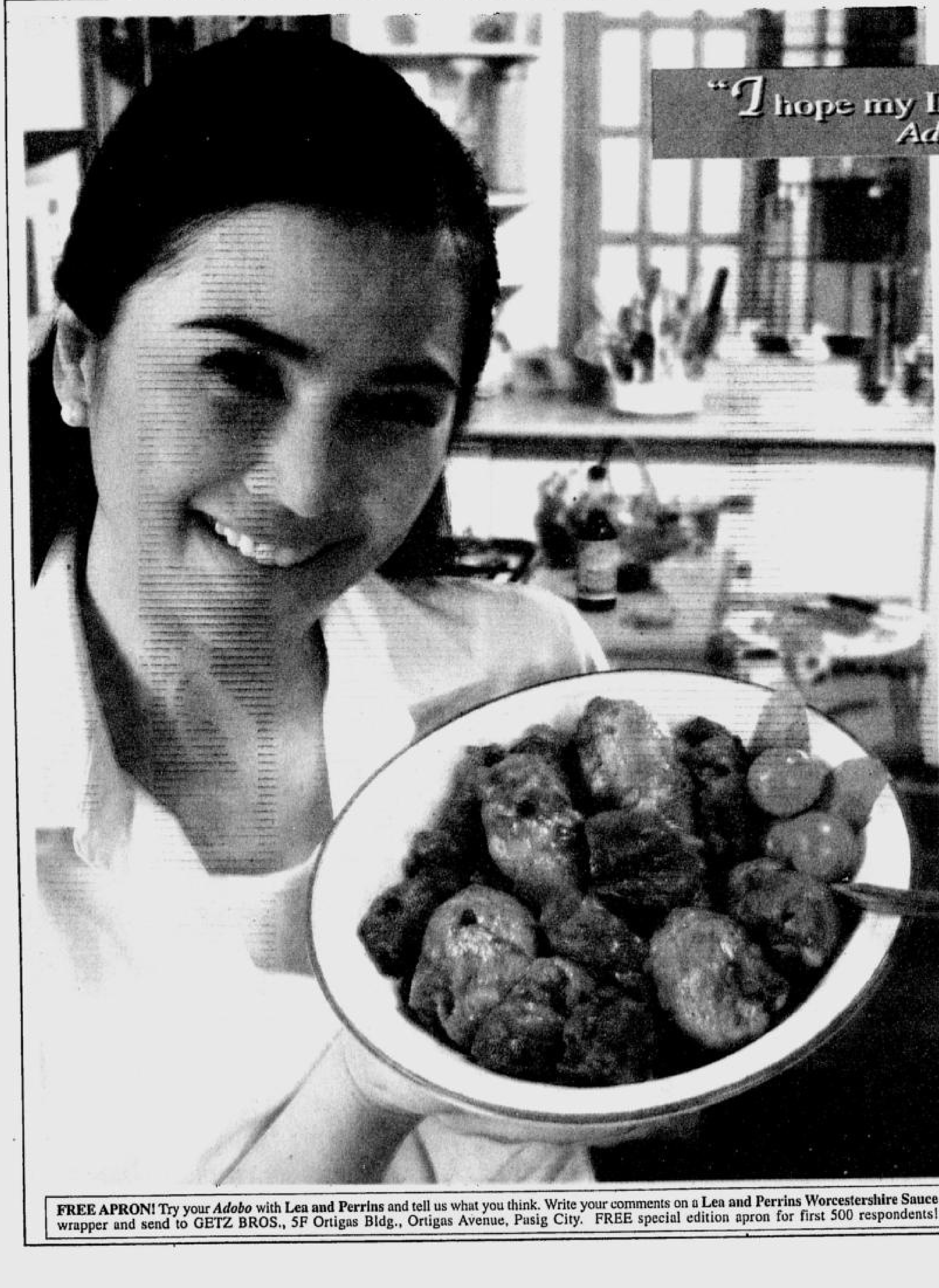
'Fight Club' on Star Movies

Brad Pitt stars with Edward Norton and Helena Bonham Carter in "Fight Club" today at 2:15 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. on Star Movies.

Pitt plays Tyler Durden who believes trhe things you own end up owning you. It's only after you've lost everything that you're free to do anything. "Fight Club" represents that kind of freedom where self-destruction is the only answer .*(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)*

To understand Mom,
put yourself in her shoes.
But first, buy her a pair.

ON MAY 13, MOTHER'S DAY, GIVE MOM A PAIR OF SHOES THAT SAYS YOU UNDERSTAND HER WELL, AND YOU THANK HER FOR UNDERSTANDING YOU ALL THE TIME
FIND THE BEST PAIR OF SHOES FOR MOM AT CINDERELLA AND AVAIL OF UP TO 30% DISCOUNT ON SELECTED ITEMS. ALSO VISIT THE LIVING PLACE SECTION AND GET A SURPRISE GIFT FOR EVERY P300 PURCHASE.
PROMO PERIOD: MAY 11-20, 2001
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1330 SERIES OF 2001



"I hope my Lola forgives me, but this *Adobo* recipe is so much better!"

Mrs. Nina Yap
Pre-school Teacher, Mother

" I've always used my Lola's *Adobo* recipe which is very good. But then, I stumbled upon a kitchen gold mine -- *Adobo* with **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce!** *Ang sarap!* Just a tablespoon and you have the flavor and zest that make your *Adobo* **the best tasting -- ever!** And now, my family will never have *Adobo* in any other way.

Come to think of it, it's still my Lola's recipe -- with a delightful twist: **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce.** I'm sure she'll be so proud of me!"

Chicken Pork Adobo *a la Lea and Perrins*

Ingredients:

1/2 kilo pork liempo, cut into large cubes
1/2 kilo fresh chicken, cut up in pieces
2 cloves macerated garlic
1 teaspoon whole peppercorns
2-3 pieces bay leaves
1/2 cup native vinegar
1 cup soup stock or water
2 tbsps. soy sauce
1 tbsp. ***Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce***

Procedure:

Marinate chicken and pork in a mixture of soy sauce, garlic, peppercorns, bay leaves, vinegar and Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Do not stir and let stand for 10 minutes.

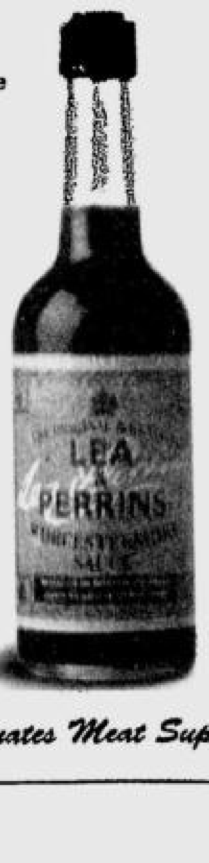
Put the whole marinated mixture in a saucepan over medium heat and cook without stirring. Let it boil first then stir. Simmer until chicken is done and some sauce had evaporated.

Take out the chicken and continue simmering. Add soup stock until pork is tender to the touch and sauce is beginning to thicken.

Put back the chicken and finish cooking over low heat until pork begins to shed some fat and the chicken becomes brown.

Remove from fire, take out the bay leaves and serve hot.

Makes 4-5 servings.



Marinates Meat Superbly

FREE APRON! Try your *Adobo* with **Lea and Perrins** and tell us what you think. Write your comments on a **Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce** wrapper and send to GETZ BROS., 5F Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City. FREE special edition apron for first 500 respondents!

Loving tribute to an outstanding mother

"The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."
John 2.17

THIS is a loving tribute to an outstanding mother, Lourdes Martinez-Garcia, born in Vintar, Ilocos Norte on Feb. 24, 1907, a product of the general public school system during the height of its excellence.

Teacher

Mama Lourdes took the most honorable career of an elementary public school teacher and retired in the late '60s. She was a teacher to generations of children in Naic, Cavite where she lived when she married Dr. Miguel Garcia, and gave birth to five sons and four daughters: Mike, Jr., Manoling, Reuben, Tita, Papeng, Bebot, Boying (*aka* Freddie Garcia, ABS-CBN President and Chief Operating Officer), Pitoy and Alice.

All the children grew up in Naic, Cavite and have maintained their childhood home well. Alice remembers that during her younger years, her mother would send her maids away on weekends so that the children would learn how to do household chores.

Old beggar

She taught them to be charitable by taking in an old beggar during a stormy night. She showed kindness by purchasing fish from market vendors late in the afternoon, so that they could go home to their families with money in their pockets.

Mama Lourdes had a very open mind, a happy disposition, and she was very approachable. Her example was her most instrumental tool. She was such a loving mother and a devoted wife; her life was filled with warm memories and meaning.

LOURDES and Dr. Miguel Garcia in their early years.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

She saw all her children become very successful in life. She started living with Freddie after her husband passed away. Freddie has been a very good son. He did not just take care of his mother but also sees to it that his brothers and sisters are all doing well.

Freddie is married to my "friend forever" Gloria Dominguez, whom I met when we were in college. Freddie spoke on behalf of the Garcia family before the congregation that attended the 9 a.m. mass at the Santuario de San Antonio at Forbes Park, Makati last May 9, before bringing Mama Lourdes back to their childhood home in Naic and to her final resting place. He said:

Happiness

"As they always say, when loved ones shared their sadness, it is cut in half. When loved ones share their happiness, that happiness is doubled. Thank you, not so much for the sharing of sadness, but for making us immeasurably happy.

"Happy, because my mother is now infinitely happy, united with our Lord, and side by side with our father. Happy, because every new life is a celebration and this is just a *despedida* party for her on earth before she attends her *bienvenida* party in heaven.

"Happy, because with all of us gathered here in her honor, my mother knows she lived a life that is meaningful, well-appreciated, and filled with the love that we now remember.

"We will all miss our mother, our teacher, our mentor, and our light. For how can we say goodbye to that one angel on earth who showed us through her very own life, how it is to be a good person? To follow our own dreams, to live by the best values a parent can give her children.

"This goodbye will be the hardest in my entire life. So instead of saying goodbye to our mother, let me instead say: Thank you, Mama, for giving us all of yourself, all of your life and all you could possibly give. We are very proud of you and you will always be alive in our hearts!"

STANDING from eldest to youngest sons (from left), Miguel Jr., Manoling, Reuben, Freddie and Pitoy; seated, Mama Lourdes and her four daughters: Tita, Peping, Bebot and Alice.

The majority is not always right

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia

DURING ancient times, one strong king was enough to act as executive administrator, judge, military leader and legislator. Today, many world leaders are unable to fill one position responsibly and respectably.

* * *

The democratic system of government allows the majority to choose their leader. Unfortunately, the majority does not always make the right choices.

* * *

A fallen president declares that never in his wildest dreams did he imagine that he would suffer such a humiliating downfall. He must have been living too much in his dream world. Now, he has awakened from his slumber. This is a blessing for him.

Downfall

What is seen as a downfall in material life can actually be the start of a more humble existence.

* * *

When one is deserted by friends and relatives, he can realize that his real friend is the Lord of Love who will never abandon him. If he surrenders to the Supreme Lord, then he experiences the greatest achievement and fulfilment in life.

* * *

The greatest power in the world is to change people's hearts from being lovers of mammon to being lovers of the Supreme. And the greatest leader is the sage who brings people from a materialistic, hellish life to the enlightened world of spirituality.

* * *

This material world is characterized by duality—heat and cold, happiness and distress, honor and dishonor, etc. Those who cling to one side and detest the other side are bound to be frustrated and continuously disturbed by the appearance and disappearance of such dualities. The wise understand the dual nature of the manifestation and never develop attachment for such dualities.

Applauded

Honor and dishonor in the material world are just two sides of the same coin. They come and go. Honor is given to the greatest and the lowest of men; dishonor is experienced by the most distinguished as well as the most infamous in society. One time, you are applauded; next time, you are ostracized. The best is to rise above such dualities and simply desire to be pleasing to the Supreme Lord. In this way, one's life will be truly perfect.

* * *

Revolutions change the faces in the government but they do not change the hearts of the people.

* * *

It's easy to criticize those who have done wrong while watching from the sidelines. It's a real challenge to rise up to do the job yourself.

* * *

Those who envy and selfishly aspire to occupy seats of power are amply rewarded with the heavy burden of anxieties and karmic reactions arising from their entangled condition.

* * *

The crown of a ruler is very heavy on the head of a weak leader.

* * *

The wise can see through the antics and gimmicks of a charlatan leader. The pseudo leader makes a clown of himself when he acts ignorantly and arrogantly.

The night that left nothing to the imagination

Last April 27, Nakpil and Orosa streets in Malate played host to an extravagant showcase of style and wild abandon – the Chivas Regal "When You Know Music" Trip Out. Chivas Regal, the smoothest scotch whisky in the world, set the summer night ablaze with performances by some of Manila's top bands and DJs.

The Chivas Regal "When You Know Music" Trip Out was the perfect party to launch the Chivas Regal "When You Know" proposition. You know what you want and how to get it while having fun and experiencing life to the fullest. Best of all, you do that with a style and a passion that make you different from anyone else. The Chivas Regal "When You Know Music" Trip Out was Chivas Regal's way of giving you that extra push.

The party featured different music genres from five of the world's music capitals. Joey Mead, the fabulous hostess for the evening, took the savvy crowd to Vienna, London, Jamaica, New Orleans, and Ibiza all in just one trip. It was the perfect way to psyche you up for the possibility that you could actually be partying in one of those places. Roughly translated, Chivas Regal is giving you a chance to win a free trip to any of the five music capitals.

The evening started with the smooth sounds of classical Vienna. Much like the way Chivas Regal smoothly goes through your palate. Its triple blend makes Chivas Regal the smoothest scotch whisky in the world. Then as the evening progressed, the music kept escalating. A wet and wild Ibiza-style foam party capped off the event as the hyped-up crowd tripped out with wild abandon.

The night was crawling with partyfiles and flowing with Chivas Regal. Why wouldn't it? You not only get the smooth taste of Chivas Regal, you also get a chance to fly off to one of the five music capitals of the world for free plus a "When You Know Music" CD compilation with no extra charge. Nothing can get better than that. If you were there, you are one of the privileged few to enjoy the taste of Chivas Regal and the sights and sounds of the music capitals of the world.

AM/FM

Kuya Cesar plays nostalgic songs about living and loving

By Rito P. Asilo

(Conclusion)

IT'S interesting to note that it took sometime before much attention was focused again on melodramatically romantic songs since the heydey of Papin and company, until Jessa Zaragosa's "Bakit Pa?" (take note of the similarity of title to Papin's) changed the career course of the former sexy star's fate, as well as the listening habits of Pinoy music fans in the late '90s.

PAPIN AND ZARAGOSA. From the '70s to the '90s, their melodramatically romantic songs continue to attract enthusiastic listeners.

Jukebox wannabes these days have added a new twist, literally and metaphorically, by coming up with suggestive lyrics and hilarious choreography (need I belabor Mystica's rip-roaring splits?).

News advisories

In between this repertoire of old songs, Kuya Cesar anchored news advisories from ABS-CBN's roving reporters. But noticeably, we didn't catch a single listener seeking advice, just the usual smarmy greetings from listeners who only wanted their voices heard on radio. And that was what we waited for, so that was a disappointment!

We tried to call all the four telephone numbers they announced but only got through one line- eight minutes later! Hello?!

Before midnight struck, we tuned in to DZRH to hear what program they had, but got so flustered when we heard its station ID played *five* times! So we switched to FM and caught Little Richard's 1956 Rock and Roll classic, "Long Tall Sally" over GMA's DWLS 97.1 on DJ Joe Spinner's "Retro Jam" shift, from 12 to 6 AM.

Another oft-recorded song, it was fascinating to listen to the original after hearing the different versions of the Beatles, Elvis Presley, Jerry Lewis, even Jimi Hendrix. It gave us a different perspective to the song.

Night owls

For night owls, "Retro Jam" offers an unobtrusive listening experience perfect for insomniacs who wish to listen to a variety of songs: the relaxed fiddle-and-voice bluegrass crooning of Alison Krauss in 1995's "Baby Now That I Found You"; the brilliantly angst-ridden "Runaway Train" of Soul Asylum; Bryan Adams' ethereal "Heaven"; Oleta Adams' sing-along favorite, "Get Here", blue-eyed soul artist Robert Palmer's first hit, 1978's "Every Kinda People", which sounds like Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On"; Carrie Lucas' syrupy "Sometimes A Love Goes Wrong", 1991 Grammy Best New Artist Marc Cohn's "Walking in Memphis", Sheryl Crow's organic "Strong Enough"; the Vapors' New Wave Hit, "Turning Japanese"; Dee-Lite's "Groove Is In the Heart" which sounds like a B-52s ditty , Semisonic's delightful "Semi-Charmed Life"; Billy Joel's "Uptown Girl"; Seal's hypnotic "Kiss From A Rose"; Gazebo's Gary Numan-*ish* "I Like Chopin"; and even the current hit, "Jaded", from the formidably durable pop-metal band Aerosmith's recent number one album, "Just Push Play".

You can't get any more varied than that!

Revisiting 50 years of music history through radio

(Conclusion)

For a long radio show like "774 with Love," it would be interesting if they had short trivia about artists most people these days know so little about. Like, Peter and Gordon was the first British Invasion act after the Beatles to take the number one spot on the American chart with "A World Without Love".

The irony is, "A World Without Love" was among John Lennon and Paul McCartney's unrecorded compositions that they deemed unworthy of recording, which Peter Asher obtained permission to record because he was the brother of Jane Asher, Paul's girlfriend for much of the '60s.

Or that the Beatles' first name was The Quarrymen before they changed it to Silver Beatles, and eventually dropping "Silver" on their way to rewriting music history.

A number of songs that we heard on this program are known even by Gen X'ers because they have also been recorded and given contemporary arrangements, like the Mindbenders' "Groovy Kind of Love", remade by Phil Collins, and The Beatles' "I Saw Her Standing There", which Tiffany revived in the late '80s.

Even more surprising was their choice of top-rate Pinoy songs with equally top-rate interpreters who have not gotten radio airplay for sometime now: Celeste Legaspi's "Kundiman Medley"; Pilita Corrales' "Ikaw Ang Mahal Ko"; the Apo's "Doo Bidoo"; and Sampaguita's infectiously fun-filled "Laguna."

It was also interesting to hear Wadab's "Habang Tumatagal, Lalong Tumitibay" because the song has recently been revived by a number of male pop singers.

As for Damian, it was refreshing to hear an AM DJ who does not drag his words. He announces the song, its singer, sometimes the year the song was released, and if it was number one on the charts.

Speed

Quite a number of program hosts drive us to sleep with the slowness with which they deliver their lines, probably because many of them hold four- or five-hour shifts. They have to stretch everything to fill up so much time.

On AM radio, there's just so many hold-overs from the past: music, diction, trends, even some ideas are dated. But that's probably because there are still so many areas around the country that only radio can reach, where time passes so slowly. Not that there's anything's wrong with that.

One downside though is listening to over-zealous announcers confidently say things like "We are *wissing* you the best", "Tanduay *Ram* ESQ", "Here's the song, 'I *Sow* Her Standing There'" and "Good *lack*". Well, good *lack* to you, too!

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How to succeed in show business despite the current slump

By Nestor U. Torre

SHOW BIZ has become so competitive of late that many new talents fail to make it as supporting players, let alone as stars.

Economic downturn

Blame this on the economic downturn that the biz as a whole has taken for some years now—as a result, productions have diminished, while the pool of talents for hire remains the same, hence, fewer people find work.

How can a newcomer up his survival ante *while still holding on to his principles?* We stress this because some new talents veritably sell their bodies just to get their break, and we don't want you to go down that sad boulevard of broken dreams and rapidly diminishing returns.

How to make it in show biz during these difficult times? First, as objectively as possible, know what you're good at. If you sing really well, aspire to be a recording and concert artist. If you don't sing well, don't force your way into that field—recording studios' doors simply won't open for *sintunado* you.

Stars

(They *do* open for other people who sing out of tune, but they happen to already be stars whose ga-ga fans will patronize *anything* they do—but that's another story.)

If you can't sing, you may be goodlooking, so this opens up the world of commercials, and of TV-movie acting—*if* you can act. With a lot of training and packaging, you could end up a romantic lead!

But what if you can't act? Well, many famous actors today spent years learning the thespic ropes in front of the cameras, so you too could improve in the long term.

Charitable

Thank your lucky stars that the Filipino audience is, for some charitable or masochistic reason, terribly forgiving of goodlooking newcomers who can't act their way out of a paper bag!

Acting lessons would also help, but don't expect great results after a couple of weeks. Go into it for months and months, and you could really improve.

—Provided you choose the right acting teacher. There are quite a number out there who only give you superficial pointers or high-strung exercises that encourage you to became a gimmicky, melodramatic performer. There's no future in that—unless you want to pecialize in acting in *cenaculos* and *moro-moros*--so avoid them like the plague!

Comedy

But what if you aren't goodlooking? Well, there's always comedy—*if* you have what it takes, namely: great powers of observation, a quick wit, finely-tuned comic timing, a motormouth, the ability to ad-lib in a humorous way—and a funny face would help, too (but no physical deformities, please).

What about dancing talent? That also helps, of course, in support of other performing skills like singing and acting, but it's rarely a starmaking ability in these parts (gone are the days of Bayani Casimiro, more's the pity).

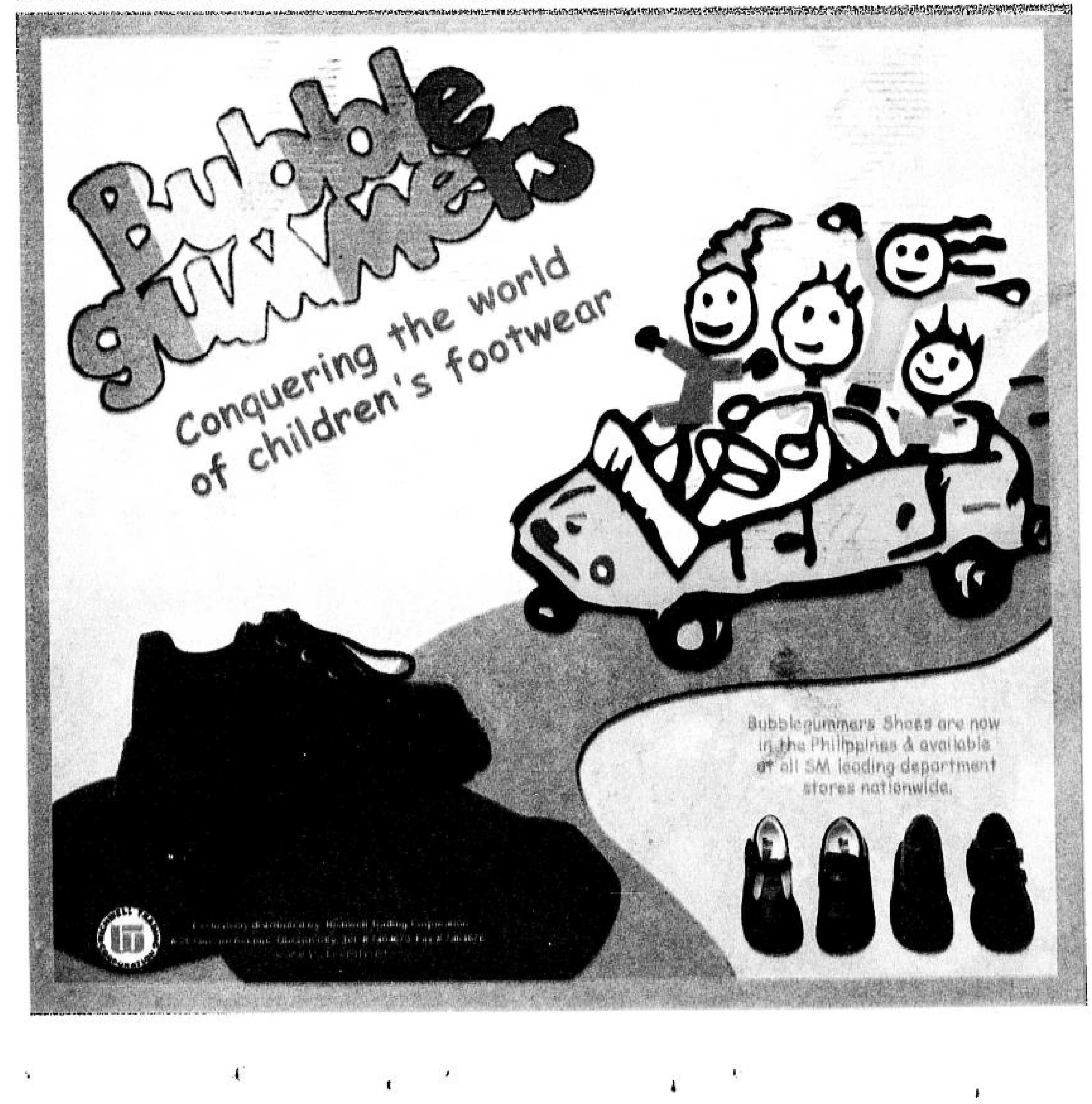
OK, you've decided on your strongest performing suit, so what do you do next? Get a more experienced person to put you through a complete audition in all the performing areas, then ask him to confirm or contradict your opinion of yourself.

Self-analysis

Why is this necessary? Because, despite your best efforts to be objective, you really like yourself too much to be harsh when it comes to self-analysis.

Remember, many of the producers or directors out there will be cruelly objective about your deficiencies as a performer, so you want to know about your flaws first, while you still have the time to correct them.

So, get a "cruel" person to see you in action and accept his verdict on your talent, no matter how painful it is. Then humbly take the workshops and other remedial measures needed to reduce if not totally eliminate your liabilities as a performer. *(To be concluded)*



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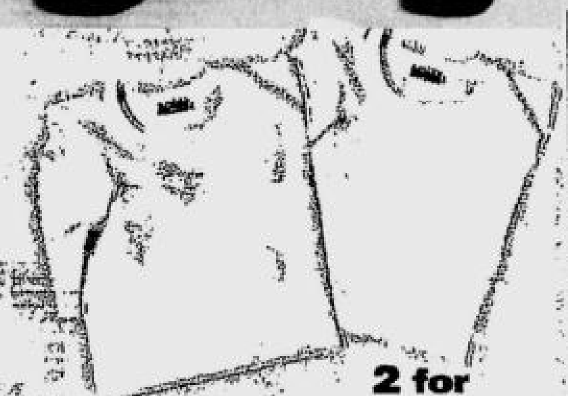
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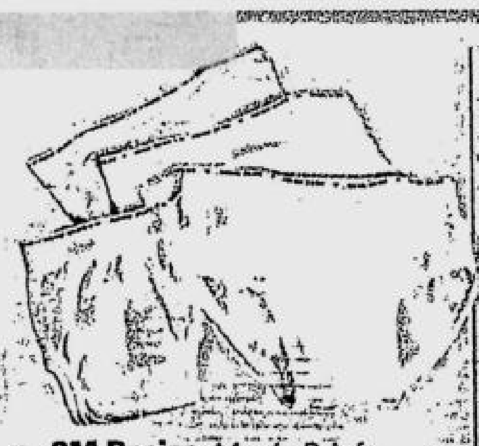
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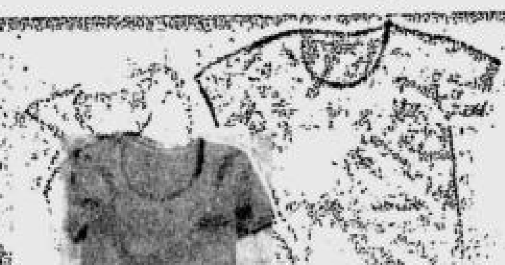
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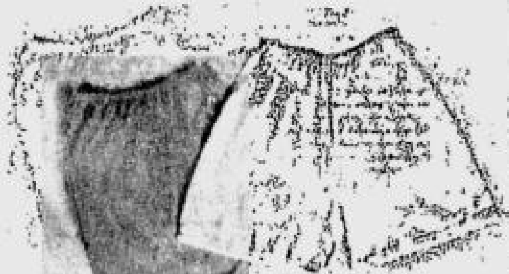
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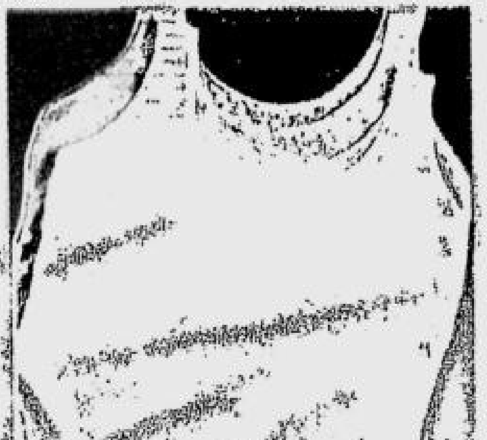
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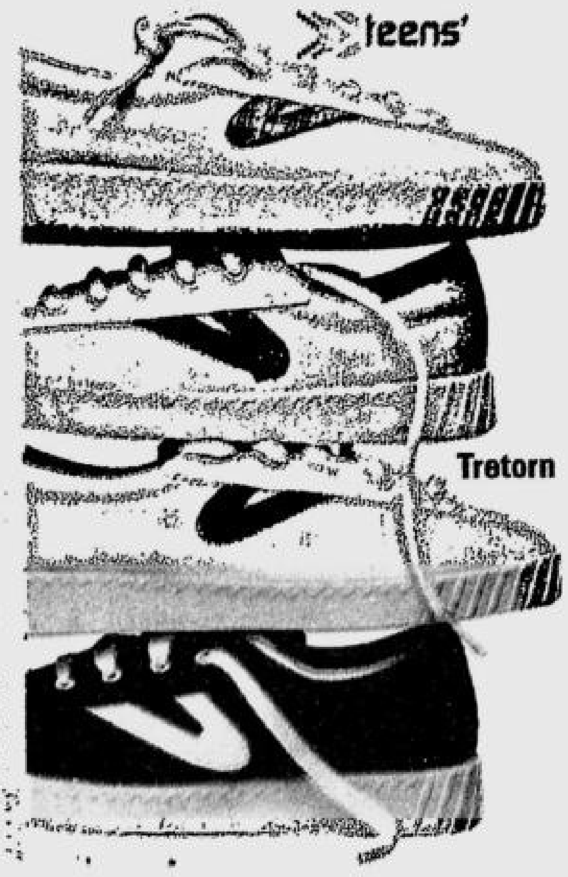

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- A Super 'Lolo' Page 2
- I 'woof' you Page 4
- An Atomo Story: The Brain Chase Page 6

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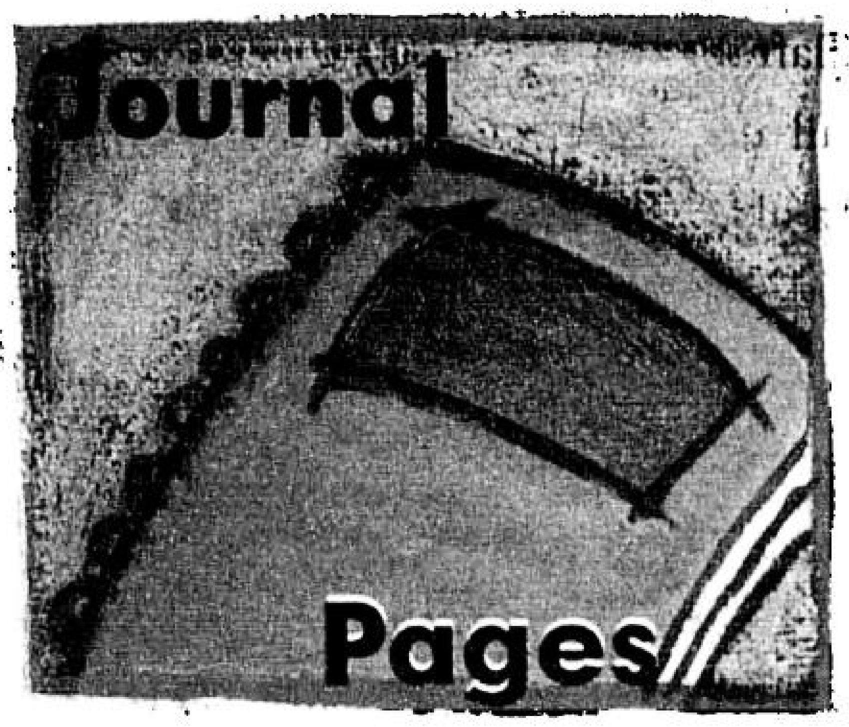
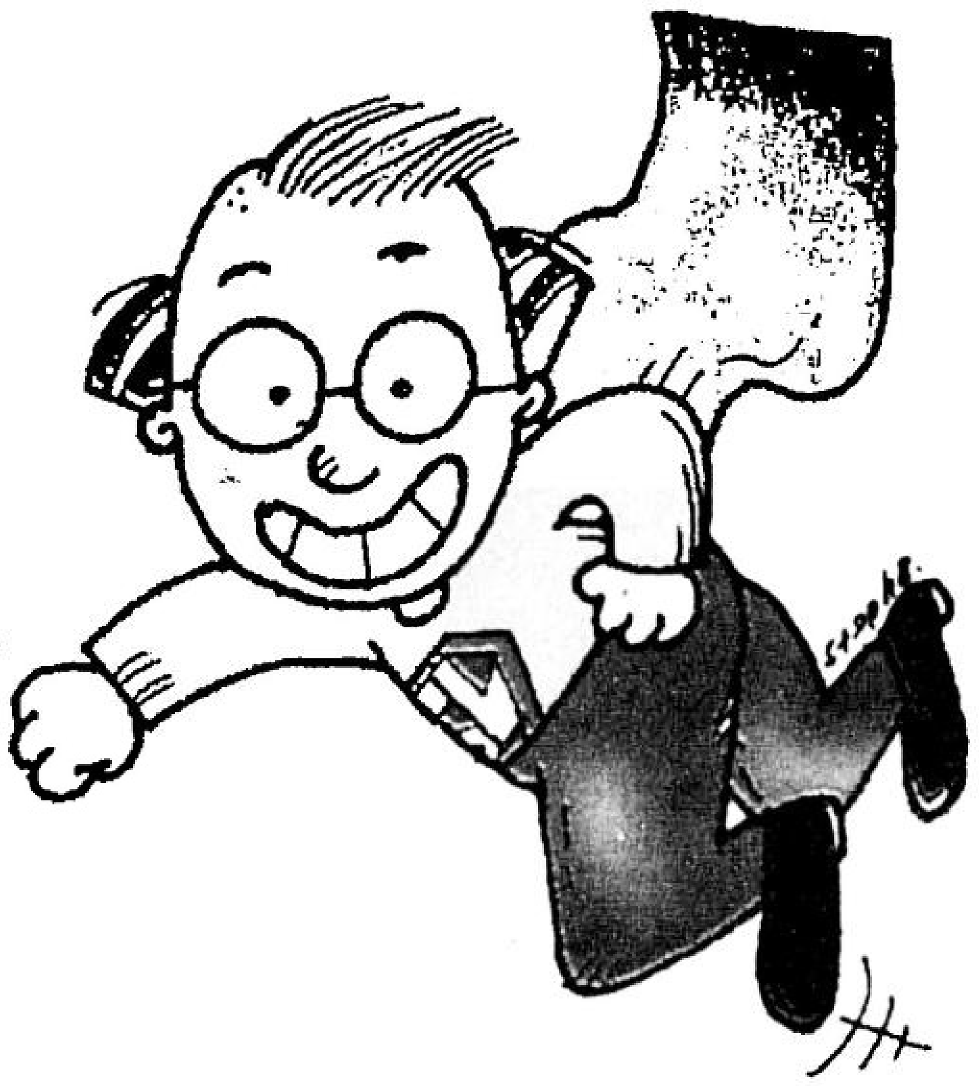


My Super Lolo

BY PRISMA DIYOSA ESPINA
UST HIGH SCHOOL
ESPAÑA, MANILA



A SUPERLOLO is a very loud firecracker. Well, here, I'm not talking about that kind of Super Lolo.

Actually, it means the opposite! This Super Lolo is kind, loving, understanding and certainly doesn't explode. You may know by now what or who I am talking about.

Yeah, he's my *lolo*! The father of my mother and the one I most like of all my grandparents (but I love all of them).

Why him? He is sometimes the substitute for the man of the family because the real one, my dad, works abroad.

Anyway, if you think he wears a blue and red suit with an "S" in the center, that would really be weird. He wears pants like all of us! He's as normal as he can be. But wait till you see his incredible powers!

He can zap rodents out of our house at once; he can reincarnate the broken lamp; he can build his own bat cave; he can fix his own bat mobile; he can laser steam up raw food and turn them into delicious and mouth-watering dishes; and he can also fly up our roof and clean it up!

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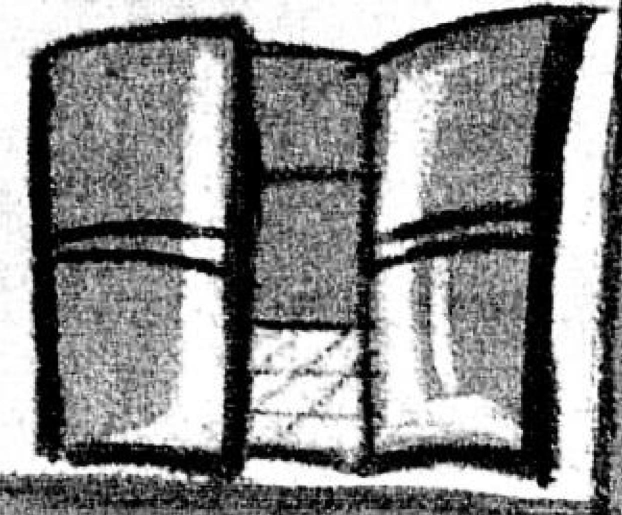

Potter Letters

DEAR Editor,

I am a regular reader of JI. I have read the letters from different people about Harry Potter. Harry Potter is really not so frightening. Actually, it is very exciting. It tells you about values like friendship, courage and love for each other (in friends). We all have different opinions. But for me, I consider Harry Potter one of the greatest books that I have ever read.—**MIKAELA FUDOLIG**, 9, St. Mary's College

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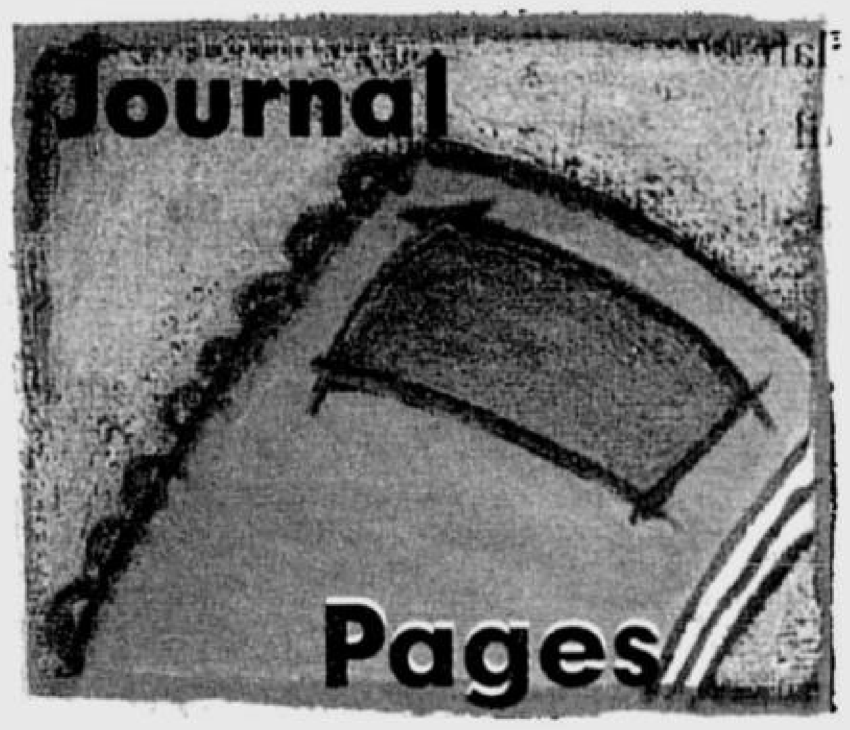
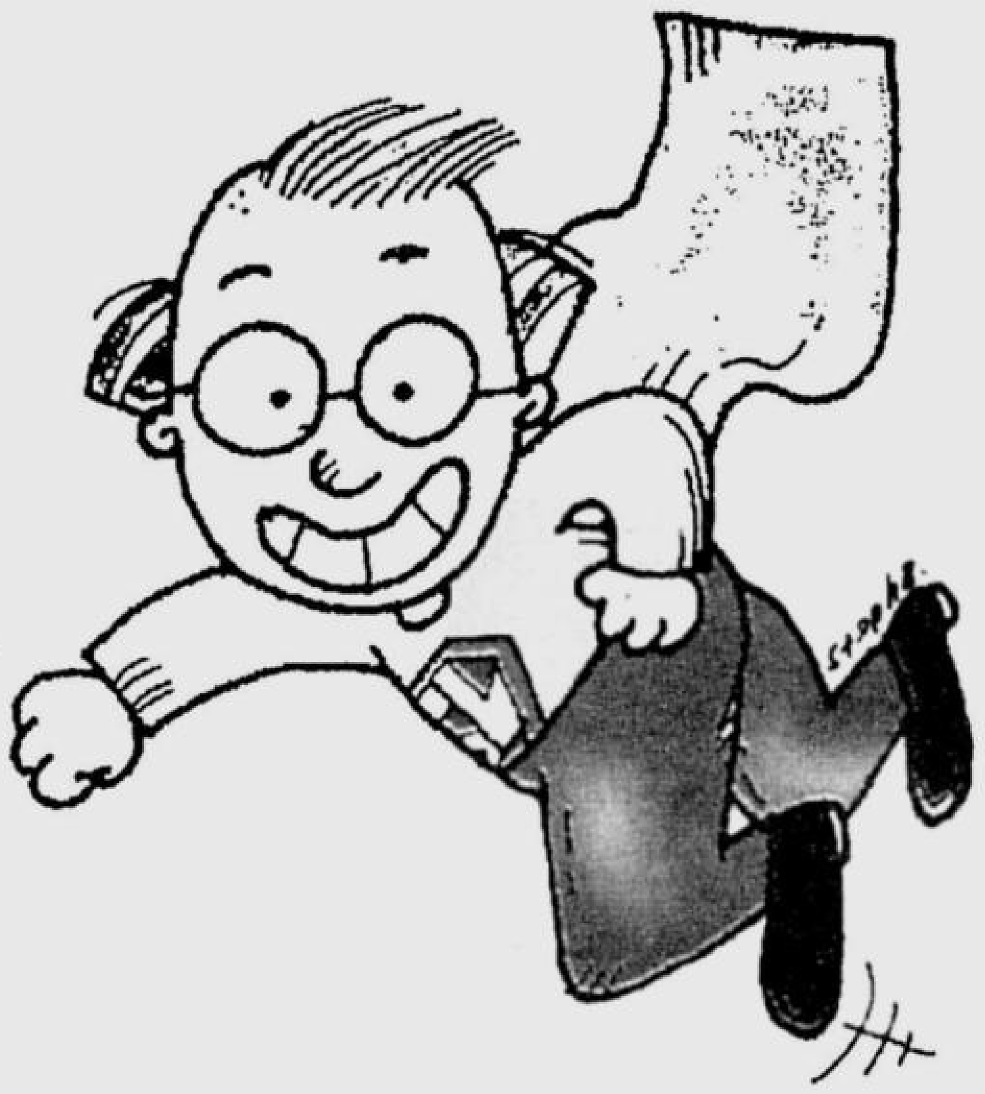


My Super Lolo

By Prisma Diyosa Espina
UST High School
España, Manila



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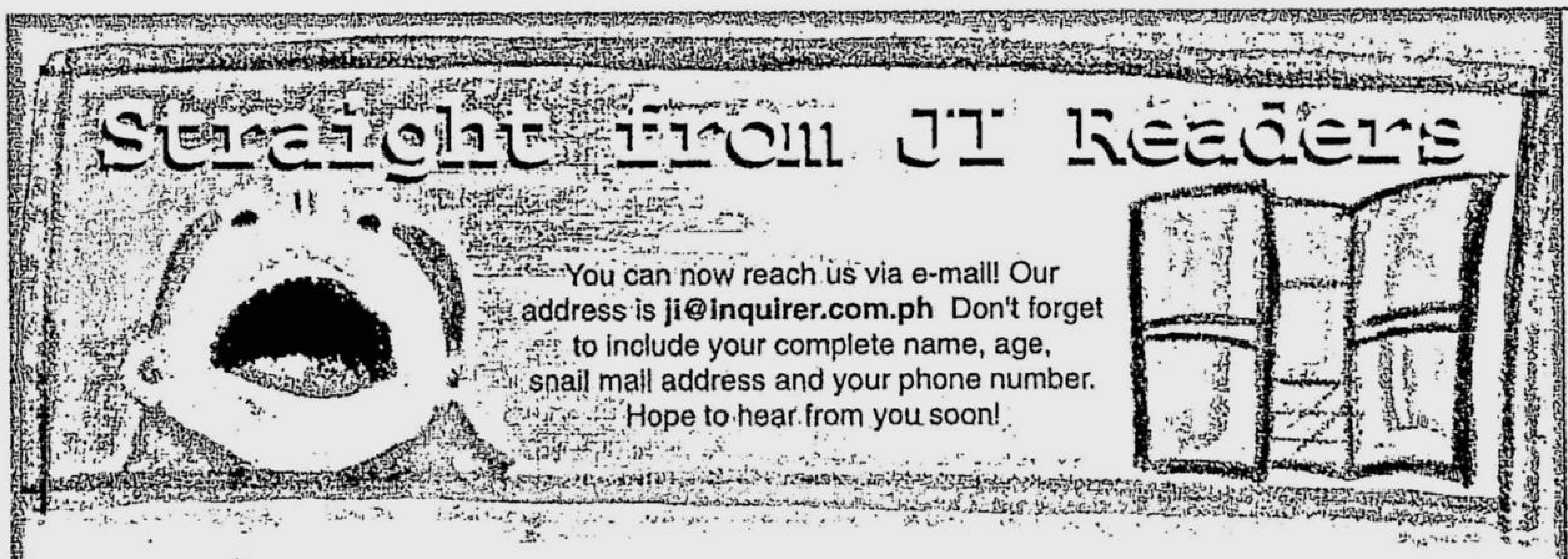

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Junior Inquirer (JI) welcomes your views, suggestions, essays, short stories and poems. All contributions must be typewritten double-spaced on short bond paper. Contributions without a self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned.
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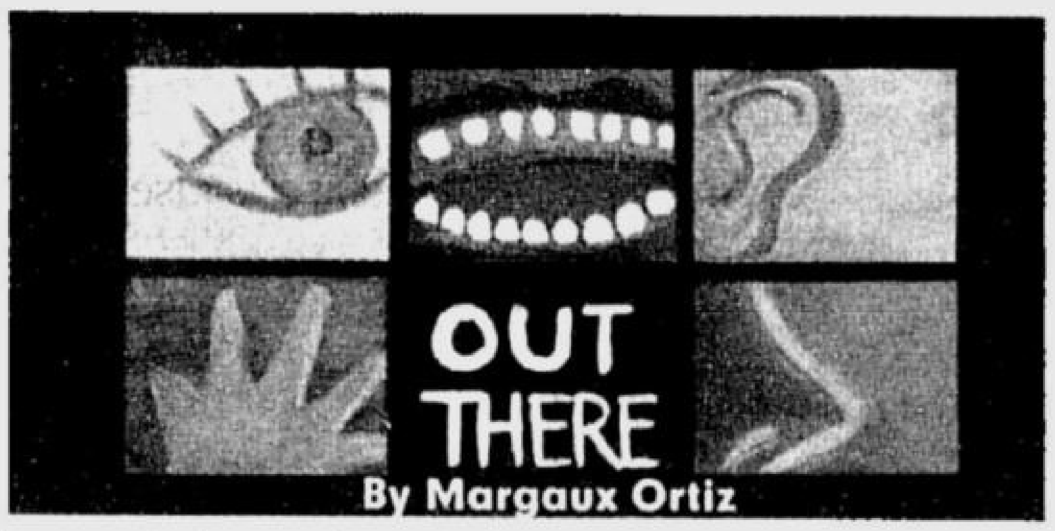


OUT THERE

By Margaux Ortiz

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

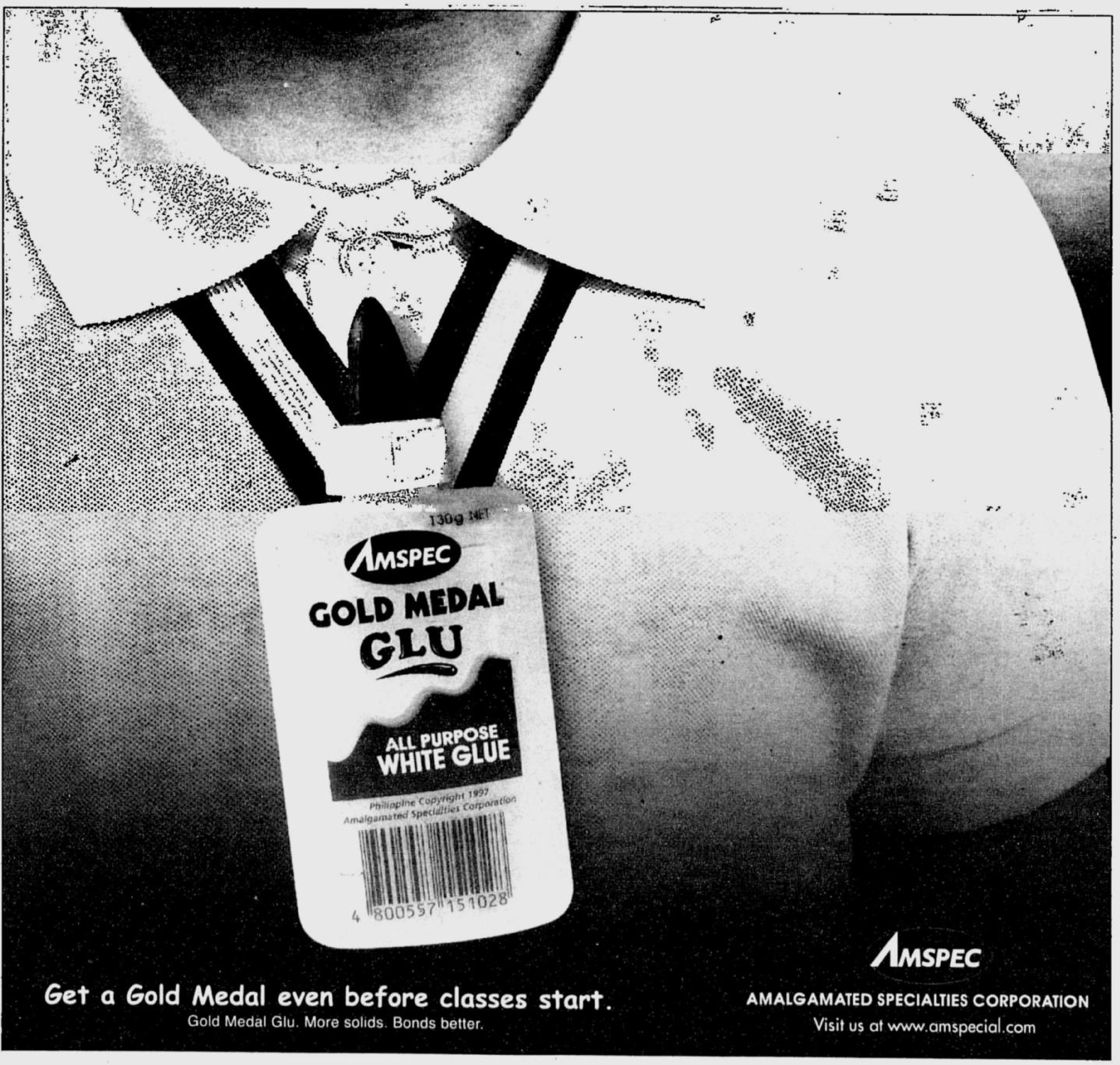
Workshops

SUMMER ART WORKSHOP. Attention kids ages 5 to 15! Feeling bored? Join Sacred Heart School Sun Valley's Summer Art Workshop and Fun Activities. Learn basic pencil drawing, still life drawing and painting or simply have fun with the exciting lineup of activities! Workshop starts on May 15 until May 28. Children ages 1.5-8 are also encouraged to join the Summer Fun Activities that will be held from May 7 to 25. For inquiries, call Ms Mary Rose at 823-1348 or 776-0312.

HEY TODDLERS! Ayala Museum urges kids ages one year and eight months to 3 years old to participate in activities like story-telling, finger painting and string art in a fun playground set-up. "Play Art for Toddlers" is currently ongoing and runs until May 17. To register, call Anthony Gonzalez, Christy Monastrial or Ethel Villafranca at 812-1191 to 97 local 130 or e-mail edvillafranca @ayalamuseum.com. You can also visit the Ayala Museum at Makati Avenue, Makati from Tuesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PLAY-ART SESSIONS. The Ayala Museum invites kids ages 1 ½ -3 to participate in play art sessions beginning May 15 until May 24, every Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. For inquiries and registration, call Anthony Gonzales, Christy Monastrial or Ethel Villafranca at 812-1191 to 97 local 130 or send an e-mail to edvillafranca@ayalamuseum.com.

Out/p.5



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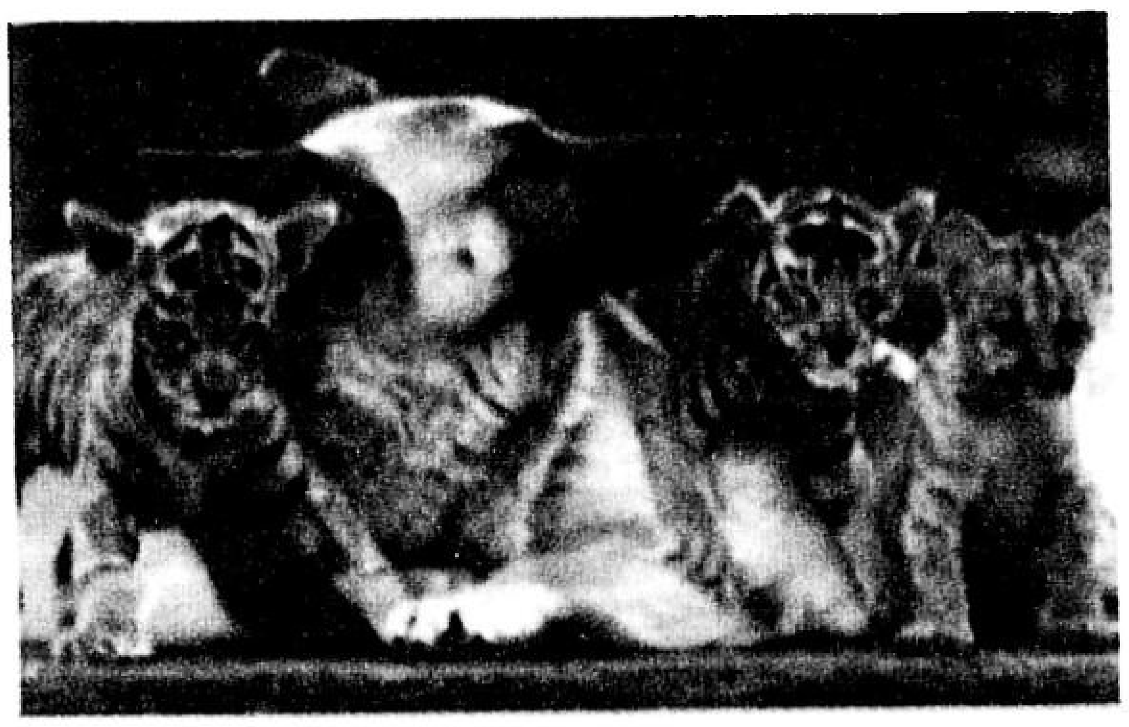
WORLD SCOPE

I 'woof' you!

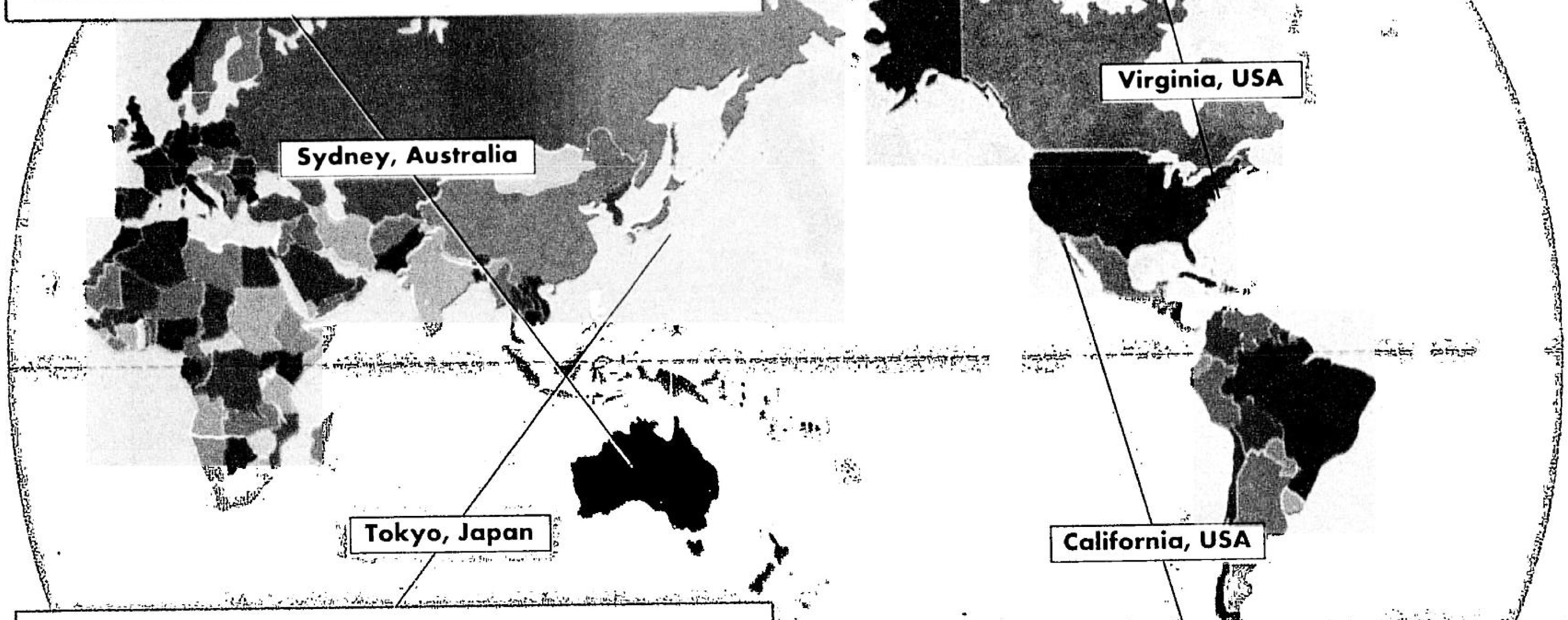
PEPPER the German Shepherd gives her new charges—two endangered Bengal Tiger cubs and a Cougar cub—a little TWC (Tender Woofin' Care). The cubs' mothers were forced to abandon them after recent heavy rains threatened their survival. Veterinarian Rob Zammit then took the orphaned cubs home where his dog Pepper immediately took over their grooming and toilet training.



Reuters

'No, your Cyber-Honor'

FRED Lederer (left), the director of Court Room 21 at the College of William and Mary law school in Williamsburg acts as a bailiff as he swears in a witness via the Internet. The witness, Hugh Selby (right), from the University of Canberra in Australia, was playing the role of a woman witness during a mock (or make-believe) trial of a terrorist. The trial, the first of its kind, even though it is make-believe, depended heavily on computer technology and the Internet to bring together witnesses, lawyers, a judge and jury to prosecute a case. ***AP***



Car-bike tandem

Check out this new foldable motor-assisted bicycle called Step Combo and a minivan called Step Wagon. Step Combo runs on a battery that can be charged by Step Wagon, which has a special space behind the rear seats for stowing the bike. Both Step Combo and Step Wagon are manufactured by Honda Motor Co. ***AP***

Virtual Supercomputer

INTEL officials and cancer researchers announce a program that plans to combat life-threatening diseases by linking millions of PCs to create the world's largest and most powerful computing device.

AP

Out There

(from page 3)

Exhibits, et al.

HISTORY 101. Visit Ayala Museum and rediscover history through its 63 dioramas! The museum is now offering guided tours to the public scheduled at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. from Tuesdays to Saturdays. Ayala Museum is open from Tuesdays to Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can call Christy, Gladys or Tonito at 812-1191 to 97 local 111/118/128 for inquiries and reservations.

GRAND EXHIBIT. Sacred Heart School San Lorenzo and SHS-CAC Goodwill Glorietta invites everyone to its Artworkshop Exhibit on May 12, 2001 at the Basement Level, Glorietta 3, Ayala Mall, Makati City. Young and talented artists, inspired by their instructor Mr. Don Amorsolo, will be showing off their masterpieces.

DISNEY MAGIC. Hey kids! Here's your chance to take part in the Disney Princesses Celebration! "It's Time to Remember the Magic" brings to us musical shows and magical interactive attractions at your favorite Ayala Malls: "The Little Mermaid" Under the Sea world at the Glorietta Ayala Mall, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" House of Mirrors at the Makati Mall and the "Beauty and the Beast" Grand Ballroom at the Edsa mall. These attractions are open until May 31.

Cable Picks.

CATS AND SHIPS ON NGC. Meet the world's "Big Cats" on National Geographic Channel, May 19 at 7 p.m. Witness a gang of warfare of lions, a lioness protecting her cubs from a new male leader, and wild cougars and their modern-day encounters with humans.

Find out more about "sunken riches," the secrets of the famous Titanic and underwater expeditions in "Lost Ships" on the National Geographic Channel on Saturday, May 28 at 7pm.

Learn about the life cycle of a lobster, the dramatic rescue of two stranded pilot whales, the real truth about sharks and the amazing killer whales in the National Geographic series "Ocean World," which continues through May on Fridays at 10 p.m.

Oops!

In the April 21 issue of the Junior Inquirer, the illustrations for the story "Ang Mahiwagang Silid" was done by **Steph Bravo** and not by Albert Rodriguez. So sorry Steph!

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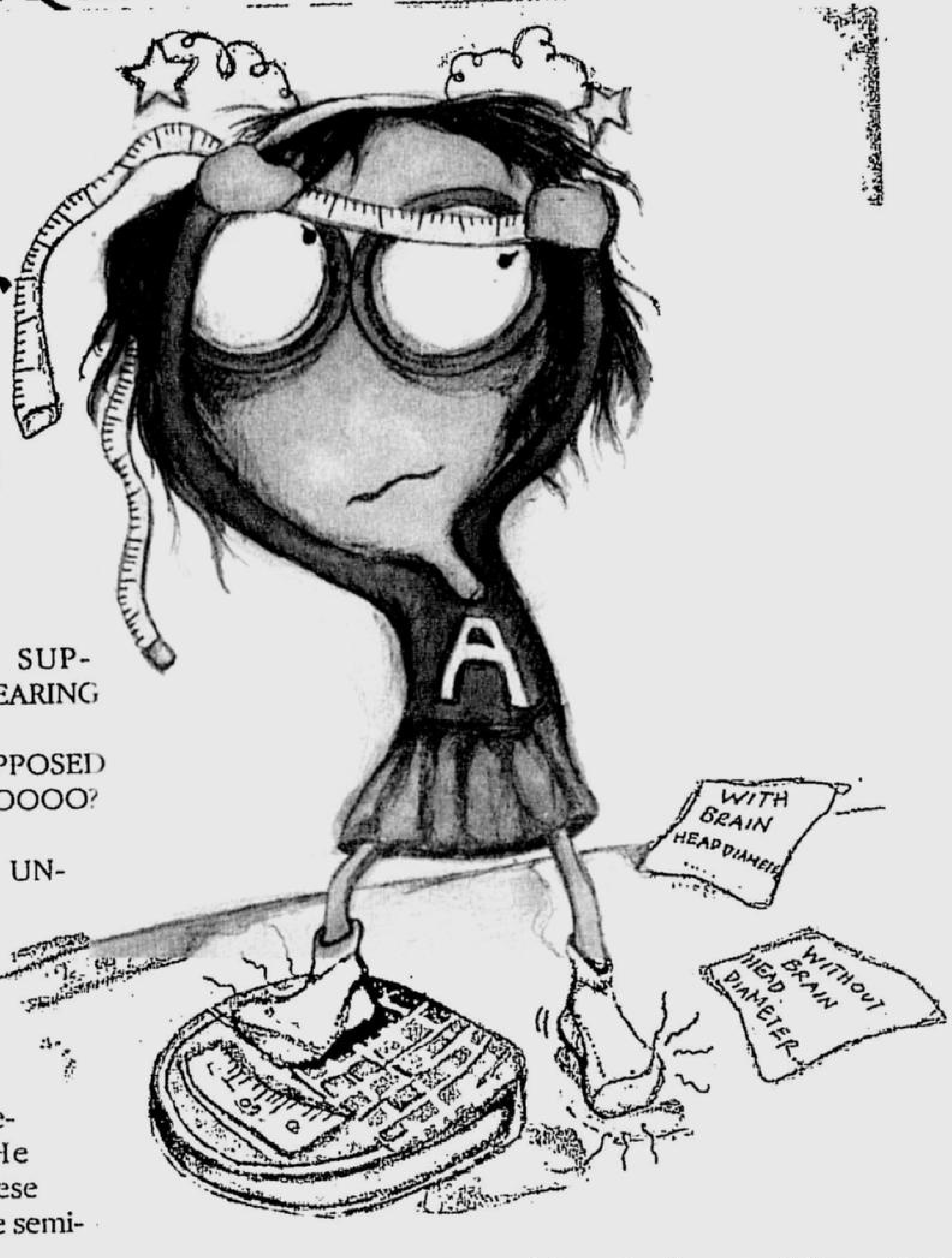
The Adventures of Atomo and Weboy D' Buddha Bear in the Brain Chase



STORY AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY LYRA ABUEG GARCELLANO

GAWD!

Atomo's undergoing what seems to be an extraordinary crisis.

SHE HAS LOST HER BRAIN.

Weboy found her one day crying very loudly. "It's gone. . .it's gone. . .my brain's nada, kaput, *bokya*, zero, *ba*-bye.

Sniff, sniff.

Weboy wasn't sure of what to ask or what to do. This, after all, was a delicate situation.

So he counted one, two, three, four, five... When he reached two hundred eleven, he finally took a deep breath and asked:

WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY AND HOW?

In a nutshell, this was what Atomo had to say:

WHAT: She has lost her brain.

WHEN: Around 10:52 a.m. in between breakfast and lunch.

WHERE: She believes she lost it in the bathroom while she was thinking of what to write for a short story and she couldn't think of any.

WHY: She didn't take care of her brain enough so it went away.

HOW: She probably hadn't used it for so long so it decided to find another owner.

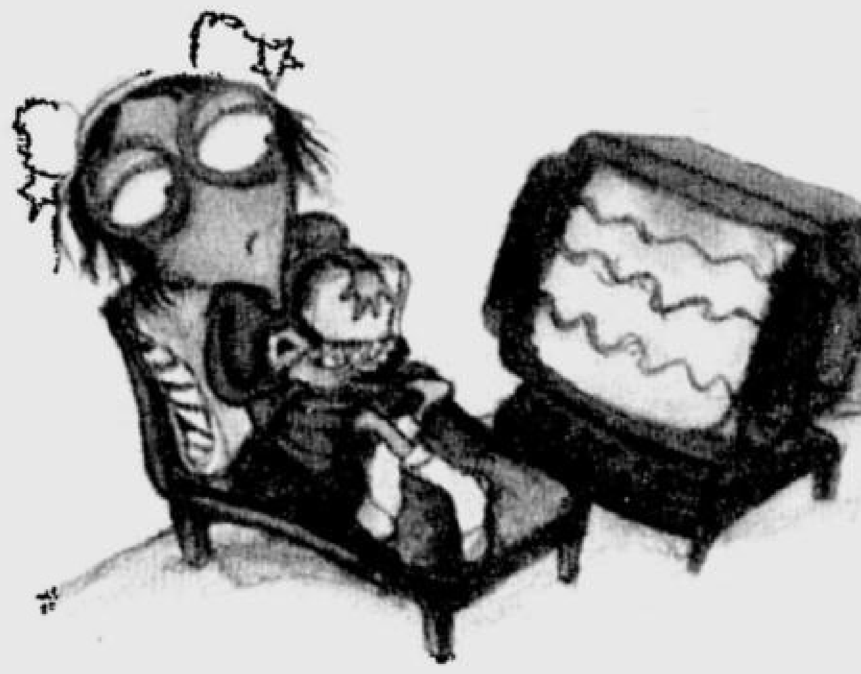
Atomo moped the whole day and cried and whined, and watched brainwashing TV.

Mope, mope, mope, mope.

Weboy didn't know what to do. After all, he didn't know what walking brainless kids looked like.

ARE THEY SUPPOSED TO LOOK FUNNY?

ARE THEY SUPPOSED TO LOOK WEIRD?



ARE THEY SUPPOSED TO BE WEARING STINKY SOCKS?

ARE THEY SUPPOSED TO GO MOOOOOOOO?

THESE WERE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS that were driving the Buddha Bear nuts!

However, Weboy, being an Enlightened One, decided to investigate. He started writing down all these questions to ask Atomo, the semi-braindead.

DID SHE REALLY LOSE HER BRAIN?

DID HER BRAIN SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR?

DID IT OOZE OUT OF HER EARS?

DID IT PACK A BAG AND GO ON VACATION?

OR DID IT WILT?

Again, too many unanswered questions. So Weboy went to the source of the problem and straight to where zombie-like, channel-surfin' Atomo had parked her butt.

POKE, POKE, POKE, POKE.

"Ahem, ahem, Atomo...er, what happens when you lose your brain? What does it feel like?

Atomo snapped out of her zombie state for a moment and said:

"Without your brain, you lose all your intelligence and imagination. I cannot think, am not creative anymore and I'm always bored. . ."

Weboy scratched his head. This was tougher than he thought. He spotted a broom and ran toward it. "This should do the trick," he said...

NO. . .Weboy wasn't going to kaplunk Atomo on the head with a broom. Sheesh!

He showed her the broom. "Hey, Atomo, whaddya think this is? Atomo looks at the broom and said. . .

"It's a stick with some funny stuff sticking out."

He showed her a cup...and she said:

"It's a funny looking thing with a hole for something."

A bike?

"It's a funny piece of tube with some funny round things that roll."

EEK! Weboy decided that this definitely needed some great Buddha Bear brainpower.

He set out to work. He called this project: THE BRAIN CHASE

* * *

Atomo, in her sluggish, vegetable, whimpering mode suddenly found a note on that funny-thing-where-you-put-your-stuff called the table.

It read:

YOUR BRAIN HAS BEEN TAKEN NOT SO FAR AWAY. I, REPEAT, NOT VERY FAR AWAY.

The Adventures/p.8

¿ThinkathoN?
BY RONG BARRAMEDA

'Mothers'

IT'S Mother's Day tomorrow, so let's do a little quiz on some familiar (and maybe not-so-familiar) names, phrases and titles that contain the word "mother." Here's a clue: the numbers in parenthesis stand for the number of letters in the word you're looking for.

1. The imaginary creator of a collection of nursery rhymes______________(6) ___________(5)

2. One's native language_________(6) ___________(6)

3. She was known as the 'Living Saint' ___________(6)____________(7)

4. The hard, pearly layer on the inside of certain sea shells_______________(13)

5. Tandang Sora's epithet "_________(6) ____(2)______(3)_______________" (10)

6. The main vein of a mineral ore__________(6)_____(4)

7. In computer science, the main circuit board containing the primary components of a computer system-____________(11)

'Mothers'/p.9

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The Adventures (from page 6)

BUT IF YOU WANT YOUR BRAIN BACK YOU HAVE TO MOVE YOUR BUTT AND SOLVE THESE PUZZLES AND CLUES.

Atomo shrieked: "I knew it, I knew it! My brain had been BRAIN-NAPPED!"

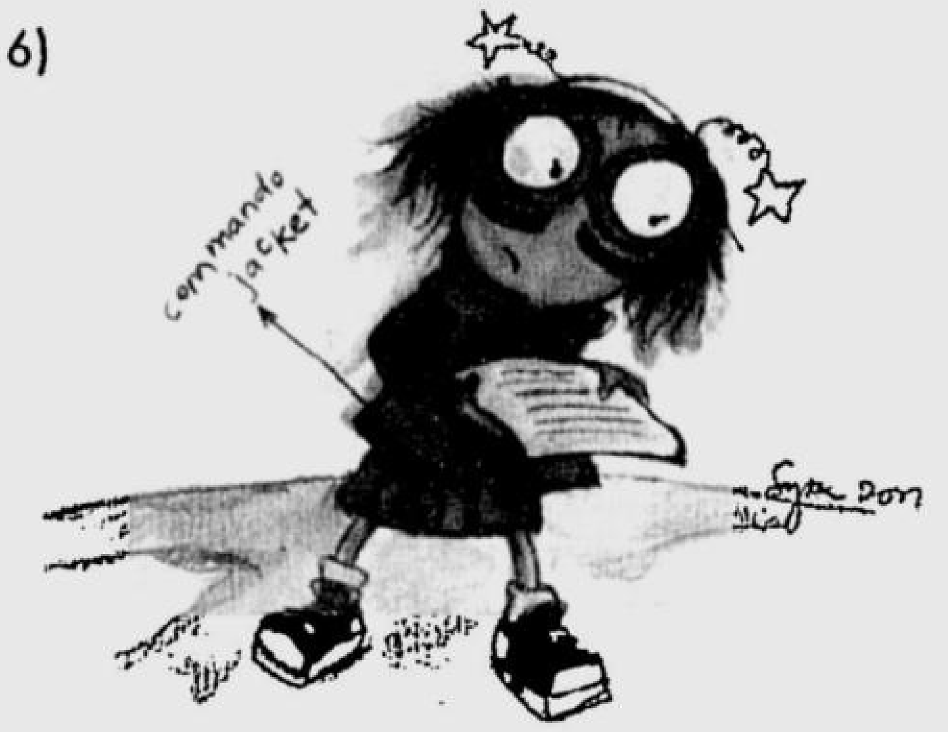
Suddenly, the zombie-esque Atomo became a moving dynamo again.

She hurried to her room, whipped out her commando outfit and make-up, got her little notebook and. . .(THANK GOD!) put on her shoes—her socks were REALLY a STINKER!

So she searched high and low, solved riddle after riddle, cracked code after code, read book after book, and jumped from one clue to the next. All in search for THE BRAIN.

Mastermind Weboy, by this time, was getting exhausted working on PROJECT BRAIN CHASE. He was running out of riddles and codes!

PROJECT BRAIN CHASE lasted for a good 36 hours. Atomo was a determined brainseeker. She would not sleep until she found her brain. She had a score to settle with the eeevil brain-napper.



Weboy, on other hand, was happy that, at least, Atomo was back. Sorta. She was thinking again, did a lot of brainstorming to solve the riddles. BUT HE WAS BEAT! By this time he was ready to kA-plunk Atomo with a soft broom on the head and say: YOUR BRAIN HAS BEEN IN YOUR HEAD ALL ALONG!

Sooooooooooooooo, he did. In Buddha Bear form, though.

* * *

Atomo found another piece of paper. This time it was in her commando jacket pocket.

WELL DONE, KID. YOU HAVE SUCCEEDED IN JUMPSTARTING

YOUR BRAIN AGAIN. YOU NEVER LOST IT. YOU CAN'T LOSE IT.

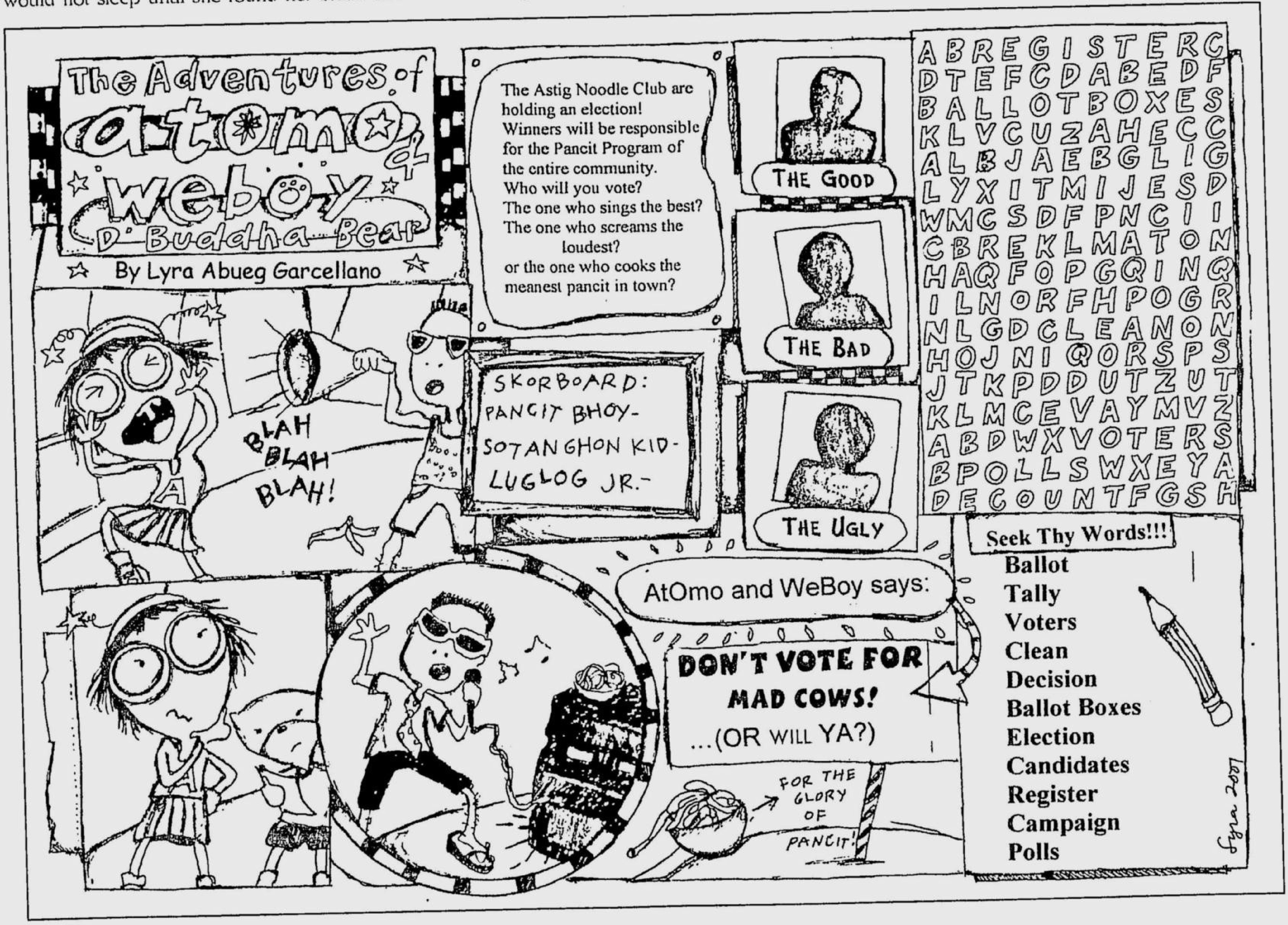
YOU JUST NEED TO WORK IT UP TO BRING BACK YOUR WITS, YOUR INTELLIGENCE, YOUR PANACHE, YOUR SENSE OF STYLE, YOUR GLAMOUR. . .etc. . .

Atomo raised an eyebrow and said "Yeah, right!" You can't fool me you, Brain-napper!" But then, she was tired so she figured the Brain-napper had just snuck up from behind her and zapped back her brain to her. It had to be magically, done, you know.

She looked in the mirror and said. "Yep, uh-huh. It seems pretty snug. Mah brain's baaaack! Web, don't you think my head looks a little bigger?"

Weboy sighed. PROJECT BRAIN CHASE: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.

SHEESH!



The Astig Noodle Club are holding an election! Winners will be responsible for the Pancit Program of the entire community. Who will you vote? The one who sings the best? The one who screams the loudest? or the one who cooks the meanest pancit in town?

A	B	R	E	G	I	S	T	E	R	C
D	T	E	F	C	D	A	B	E	D	F
B	A	L	L	O	T	B	O	X	E	S
K	L	V	C	U	Z	A	H	E	C	C
A	L	B	J	A	E	B	G	L	I	G
L	Y	X	I	T	M	I	J	E	S	D
W	M	C	S	D	F	P	N	C	I	I
C	B	R	E	K	L	M	A	T	O	N
H	A	Q	F	O	P	G	Q	I	N	Q
I	L	N	O	R	F	H	P	O	G	R
N	L	G	D	C	L	E	A	N	O	N
H	O	J	N	I	Q	O	R	S	P	S
J	T	K	P	D	D	U	T	Z	U	T
K	L	M	C	E	V	A	Y	M	V	Z
A	B	D	W	X	V	O	T	E	R	S
B	P	O	L	L	S	W	X	E	Y	A
D	E	C	O	U	N	T	F	G	S	H

Seek Thy Words!!!

Ballot
Tally
Voters
Clean
Decision
Ballot Boxes
Election
Candidates
Register
Campaign
Polls

'Mothers' (from page 7)

8. The most famous 'mother figure' in Philippine show business__________(6) __________(4)

9. The female head of a religious establishment__________(6) ____________ (8)

10. Saddam Hussein's most quoted statement "______(3)____________(6)______(2) ________(3)________________" (7)

11. Founder of the Religious of the Virgin Mary (RVM) congregation in Manila in 1684__________(6)______________(7) ______(3)______________(8)________(5)

12. Lino Brocka's first film (1970)__________(6)______________(7) __________(6)

Answers :

1.Mother Goose

2.mother tongue

3.Mother Theresa

4.mother-of-pearl

5."Mother of the Revolution"

6.mother lode

7.motherboard

8.Mother Lily

9.mother superior

10."The mother of all battles"

11.Mother Ignacia del Espiritu Santo

12."Wanted Perfect Mother"

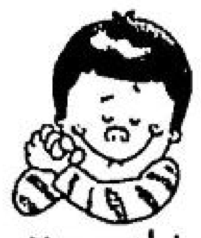
Ratings :

superbrain!

18 - 20

excellent!

14 - 17



good!

8 - 13

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Artist and multi-awarded
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The Adventures of atomo & weboy D'Buddha Bear in THE BRAIN CHASE

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

A dozen brings you 12 pcs. How many does a baker's dozen bring? That number gives you the letter U.

The total of 1+3+7+7+5+7+4+3 will give you a 2 digit number. Add these 2 digits together to get letter D.

To get the A count how many A's are there in this sentence: An aardvark appeared alone in the apartment.

Which came first the chicken or the egg? Ooops! No, no. Wrong question. What four letter word do you call the yellow thing in an egg. Give the first letter of that word a number 12.

What is the minimum rate you pay as fare for a jeepney ride? Ask your parents! The number gives you B. B is for bayad.

What is the acronym for Epifanio De los Santos Avenue? The first letter of that acronym is a 5.

The body is mostly composed of _____. When we lose too much of it we become dehydrated. Last letter of your answer happens to be also the __th letter of the alphabet.

It's always nice to go swimming during the summertime! S is a super sixteen!

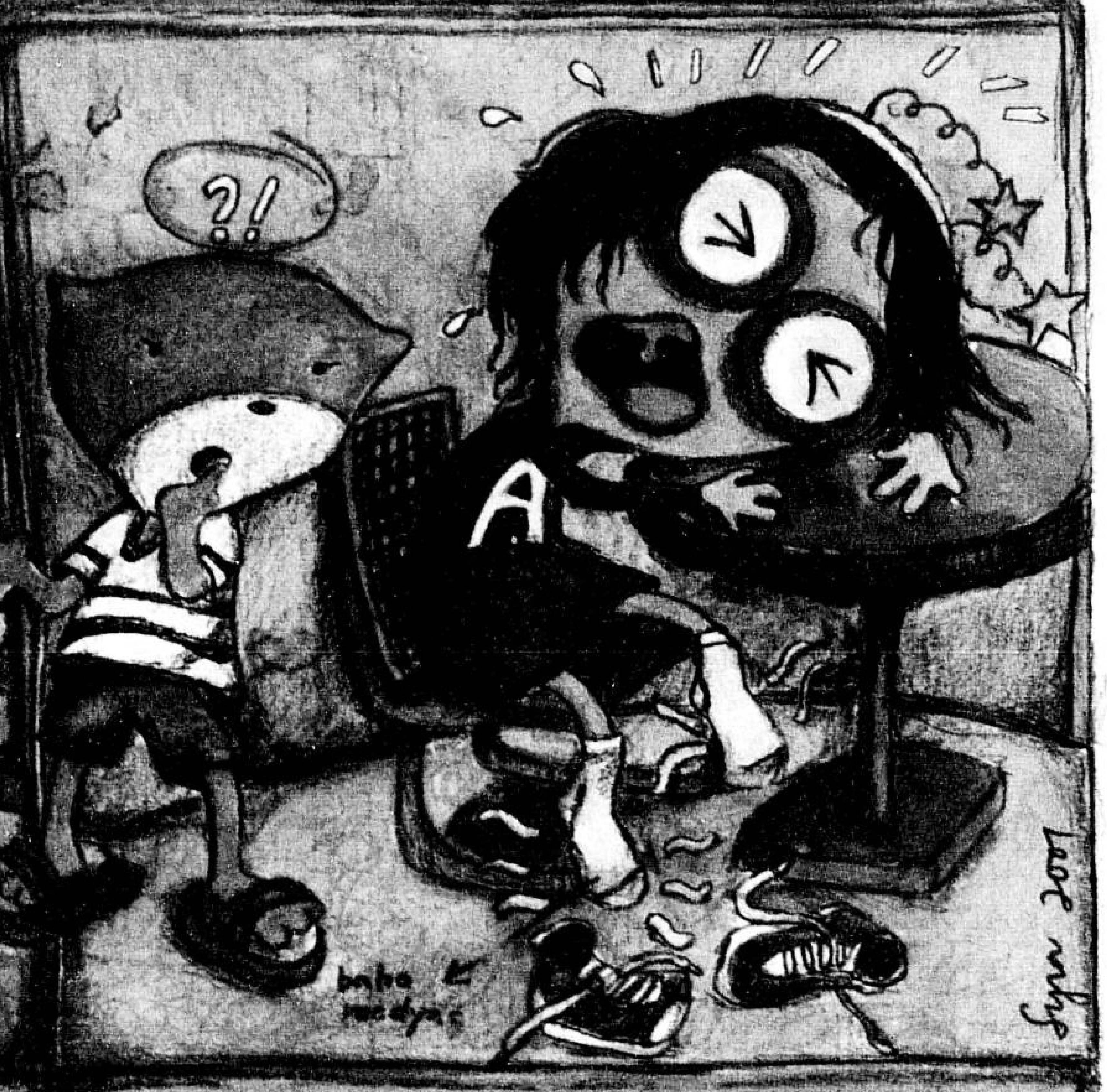
"Livin' la vida loca" means living the crazy life. How crazy is this--- Multiply 16834 91 times. Add the numbers in the total to each other and that should give you your L.

H is for Hopia, Hipon, Himpapawid, Hilag Also for Hulyo. Pang-ilan ang buwan na Hulyo sa kalendaryo?

Atomo likes fish! Fill in the blanks: __ilapia, __alakitok, __anigue. The missing letter is equal to the number of fish names mentioned above.

WHAT IS THIS?!!

Did Atomo Really Lose Her Brain?



2-10/ /16-11-6-6-12! / /11-3/
1-11-1-2'-3/ /1-11-16-9-14-14-5-9-18
/4-13-3/ /9-16/ /3-7-5/
16-9-12-11-2-17/ /17-10-5-16/ ---
11-15/ /12-10-13/ /1-10-2'-3/
13-16-5/ /11-3./ /12-10-13/
6-10-16-5/ /11-3./

BONUS LETTERS:

N=12 I=11 P=14
O=10 F=15 G=17

Hey! Can you think of other "brain" words? Weboy has:

Brainstorm
Brainless
Braintumor
Brainchild
Brainstem
Brainwash
Brainbender
Brainteaser
Brainpan
Brain freeze
Brain drain
Brainwaves
Brain power
Braindead
Braininess

Answer: No, silly! It didn't disappear. But as the saying goes---if you don't use it, you lose it.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The Adventures of atomo & weboy & Buddha Bear IN THE BRAIN CHASE

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano

A dozen brings you 12 pcs. How many does a baker's dozen bring? That number gives you the letter U.

The total of 1+3+7+7+5+7+4+3 will give you a 2 digit number. Add these 2 digits together to get letter D.

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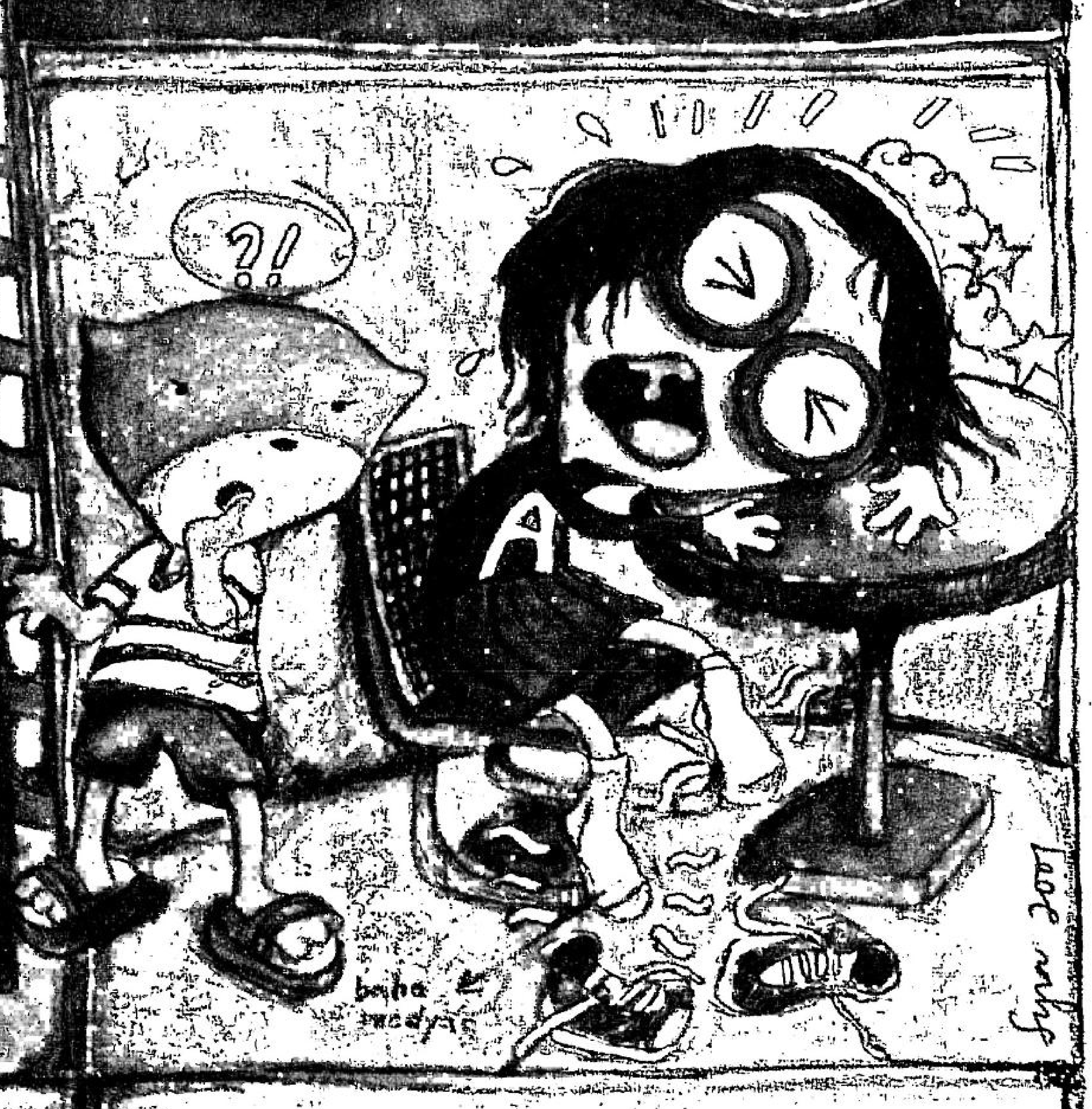

2-10/ /16-11-6-6-12! / /11-3/

1-11-1-2'-3/ /1-11-16-9-14-14-5-9-18

/4-13-3/ /9-16/ /3-7-5/

16-9-12-11-2-17/ /17-10-5-16/ ---

11-15/ /12-10-13/ /1-10-2'-3/

13-16-5/ /11-3/ /12-10-13/

6-10-16-5/ /11-3 /

BONUS LETTERS:

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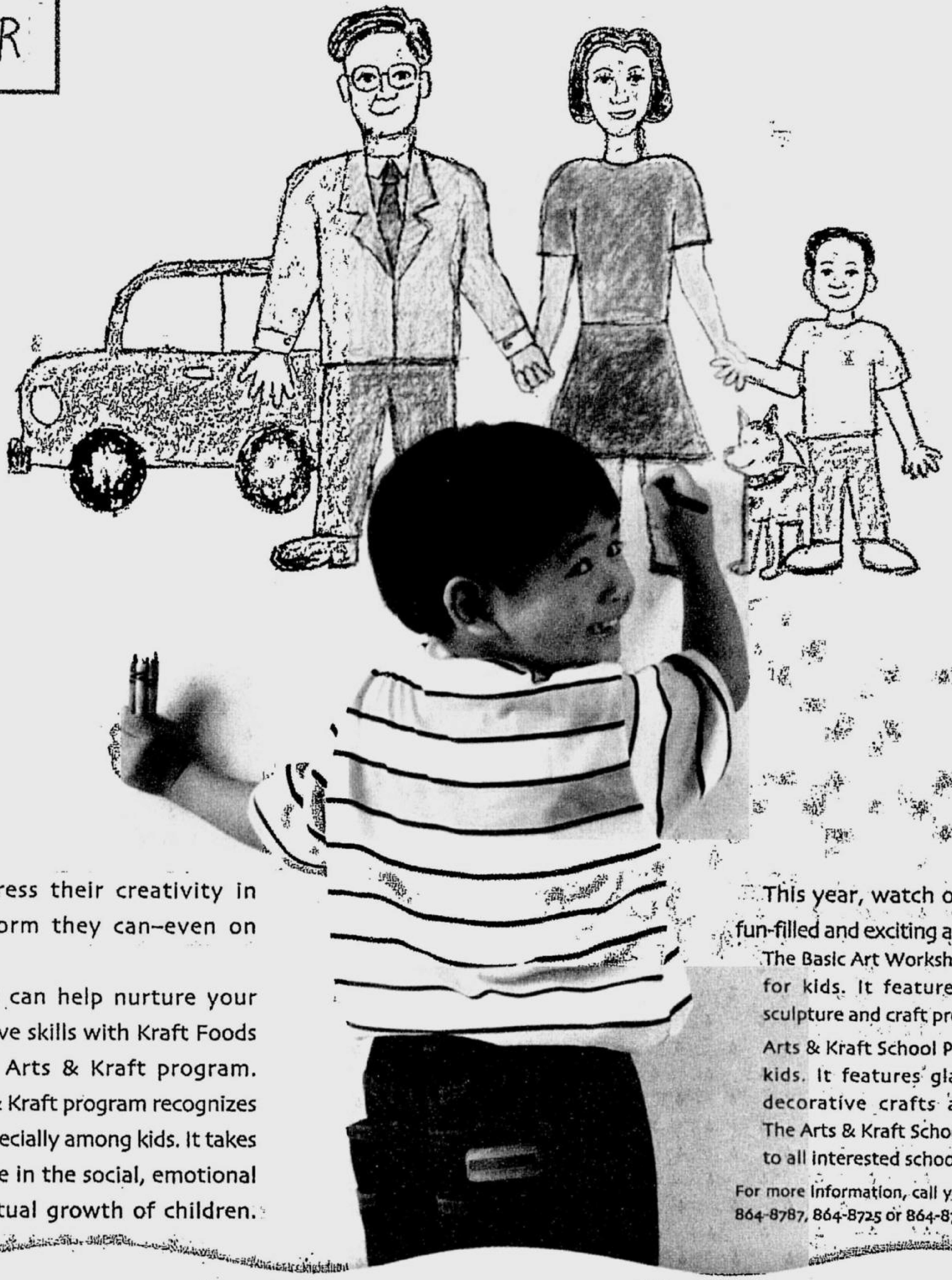
Braintumor
Brainchild
Brainstem
Brainwash
Brainbender
Brainteaser
Brainpan
Brain freeze
Brain drain
Brainwaves
Brain power
Braindead
Braininess

Answer: No, silly! It didn't disappear, But as the saying goes---if you don't use it, you lose it.

ARTS
&
KRAFT
KORNER

Let your kids express their creativity.



Kids express their creativity in whatever form they can–even on your walls!

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The Basic Art Workshop - summer workshop for kids. It features drawing, painting, sculpture and craft projects.

Arts & Kraft School Program - art clinics for kids. It features glass art, fabric crafts, decorative crafts and flats modelling. The Arts & Kraft School Program is still open to all interested schools.

For more information, call your Arts & Kraft friends at 864-8787, 864-8725 or 864-8754.

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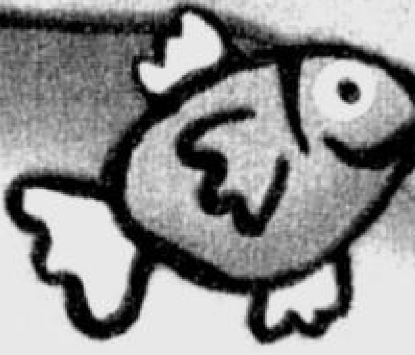
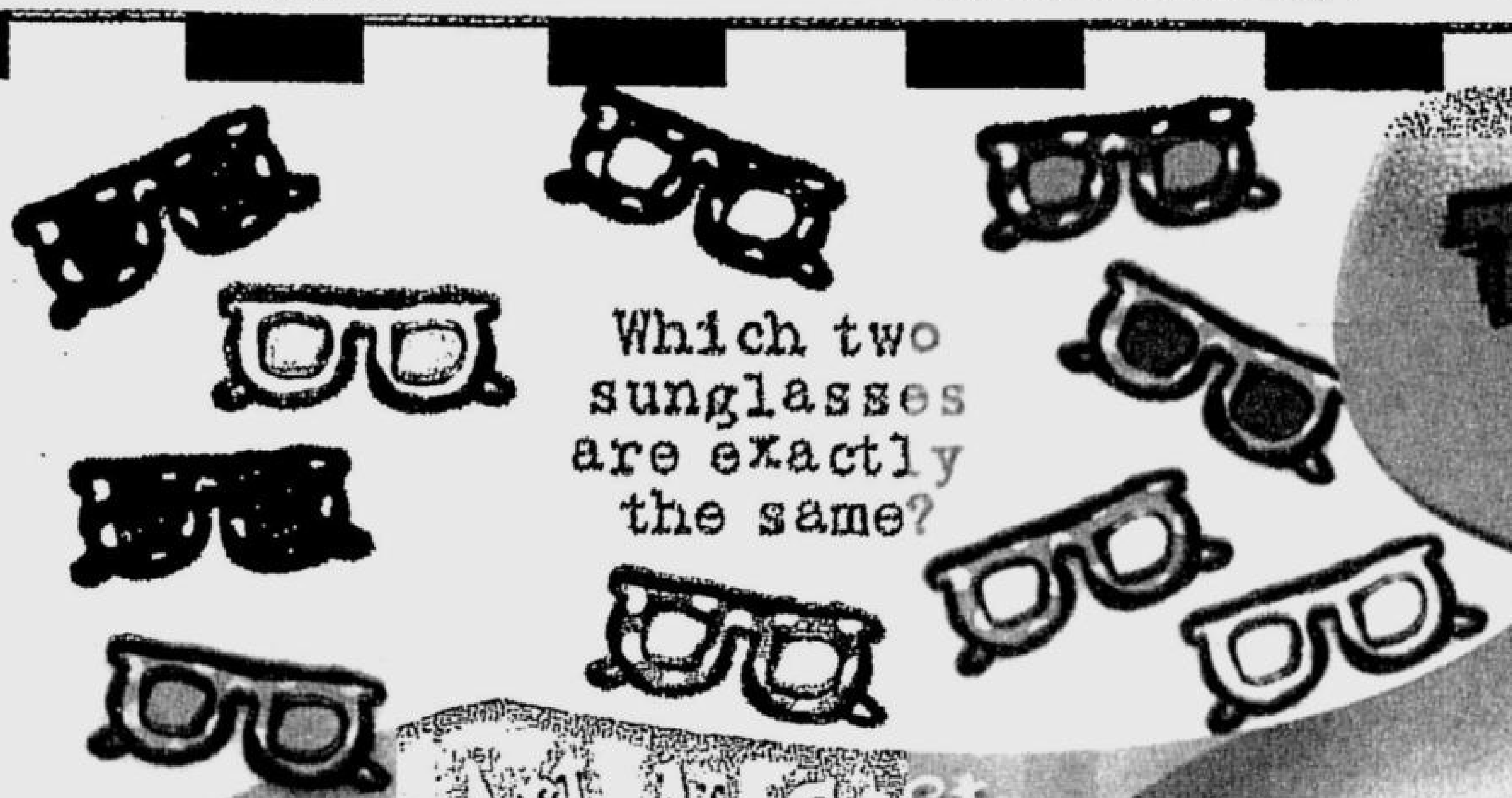
THE SUMMER LUNCH BOX

by Katrina Villa

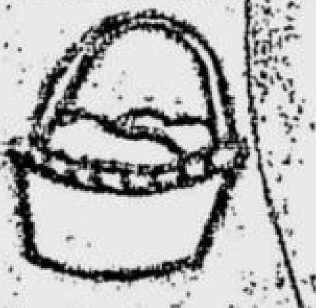




Which two sunglasses are exactly the same?

Art N Craft

EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE SPECIAL, YOU CAN STILL HAVE LOTS OF FUN THIS SUMMER IN & ROUND YOUR HOME!



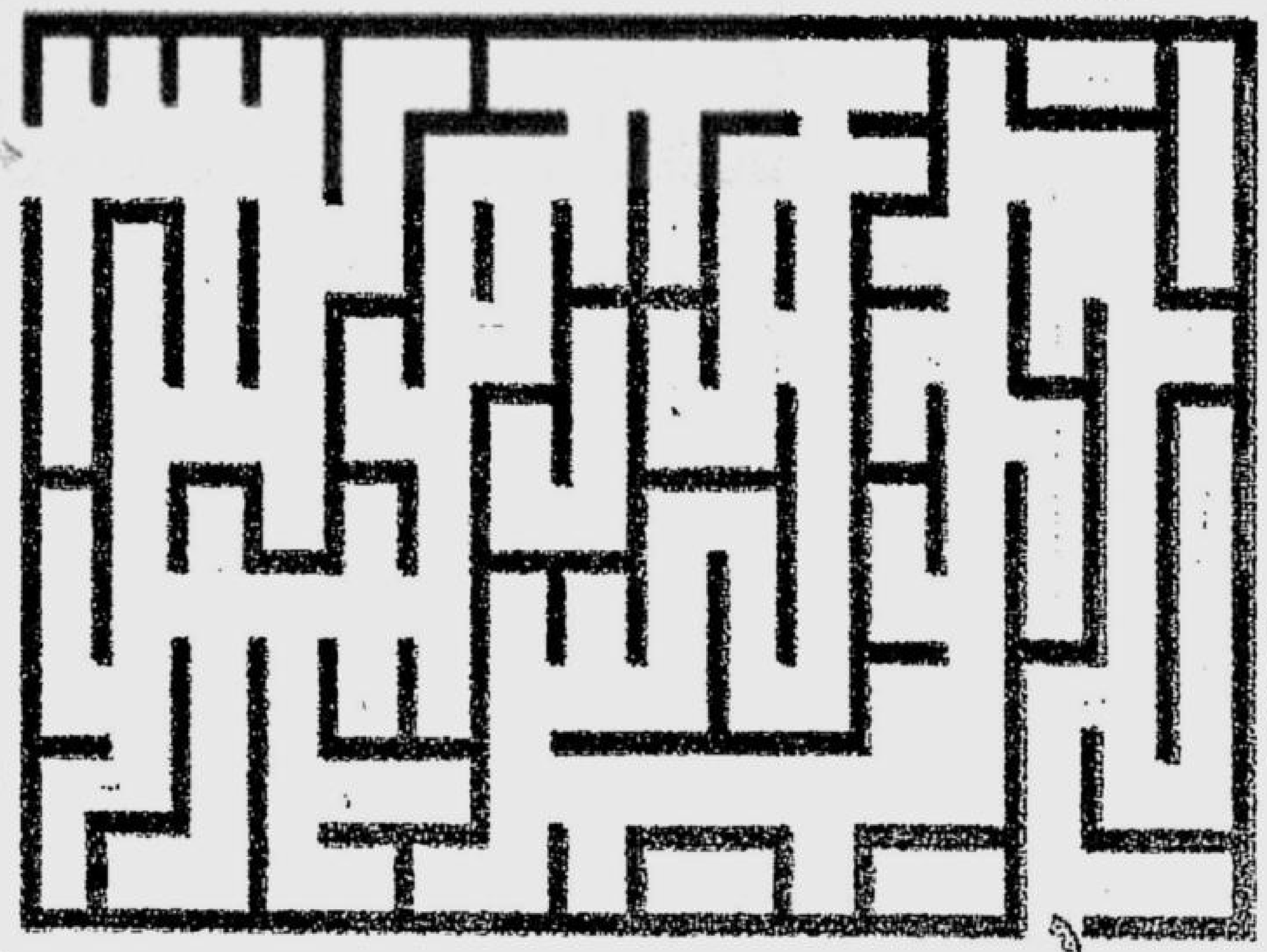
Picnic in your garden or by a sunny window.

Read a book, and then write a review. Or write your OWN book.

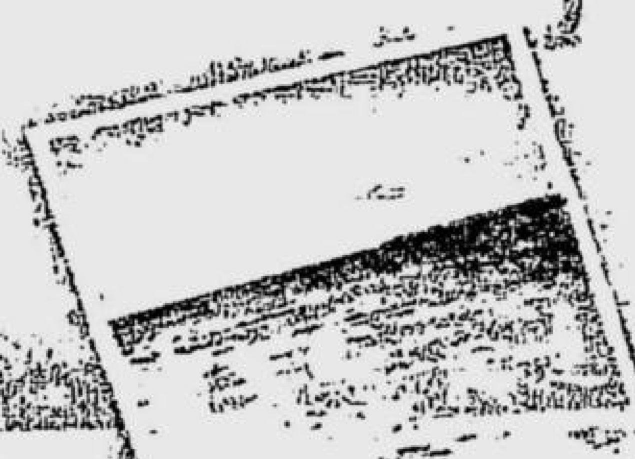
Go into business. Sell homemade treats like ice candy or popcorn.

Be a neighborhood explorer! Draw a map and mark places of interest.

Have a pool party! Inexpensive inflatables are available in stores. Invite your pals and dive in! Don't forget the sunblock!



WHERE'S THE BEACH?



Dear Benjamin,
Where can you find the tarsier?
- Andy Manzano from Taytay, Rizal

ANDY GETS A STICKER!

Dear Andy,
The tarsier, a small brown or gray mammal can be found in the tropical rainforests from Sumatra to the Philippines, specifically in Bohol, Samar, Leyte and areas of Mindanao.
Sadly, the Philippine tarsier is an endangered species because of capture and destruction of its forest habitat. Being aware of this can help save the tarsier from extinction.
Thanks for writing!
:) Benjamin

VISIT WWW.HARIBON.ORG.PH

FIND 7 OTHER ENDANGERED PHILIPPINE ANIMALS

DoRIEVAFLYINGLEMURBENAATAMARAWEYADPEA
DANGRIZJUEMCACROCODILESLAFDUGONGBEARCATDS
ASTBENJAMINGNCOCKATOOTIPASTEYTURTLEMICSA

answers: flying lemur, tamaraw, crocodile, dugong, bearcat, cockatoo, turtle

ASK BENJAMIN AT thelunchbox@edsamail.com.ph!

NOY'S NOTEBOOK

Here's a photo of me standing at the entrance of a famous underground river that's 8 km. long!! Officially known as the St. Paul Subterranean National Park, it's so special that it's been declared a UNESCO* World Heritage Site.

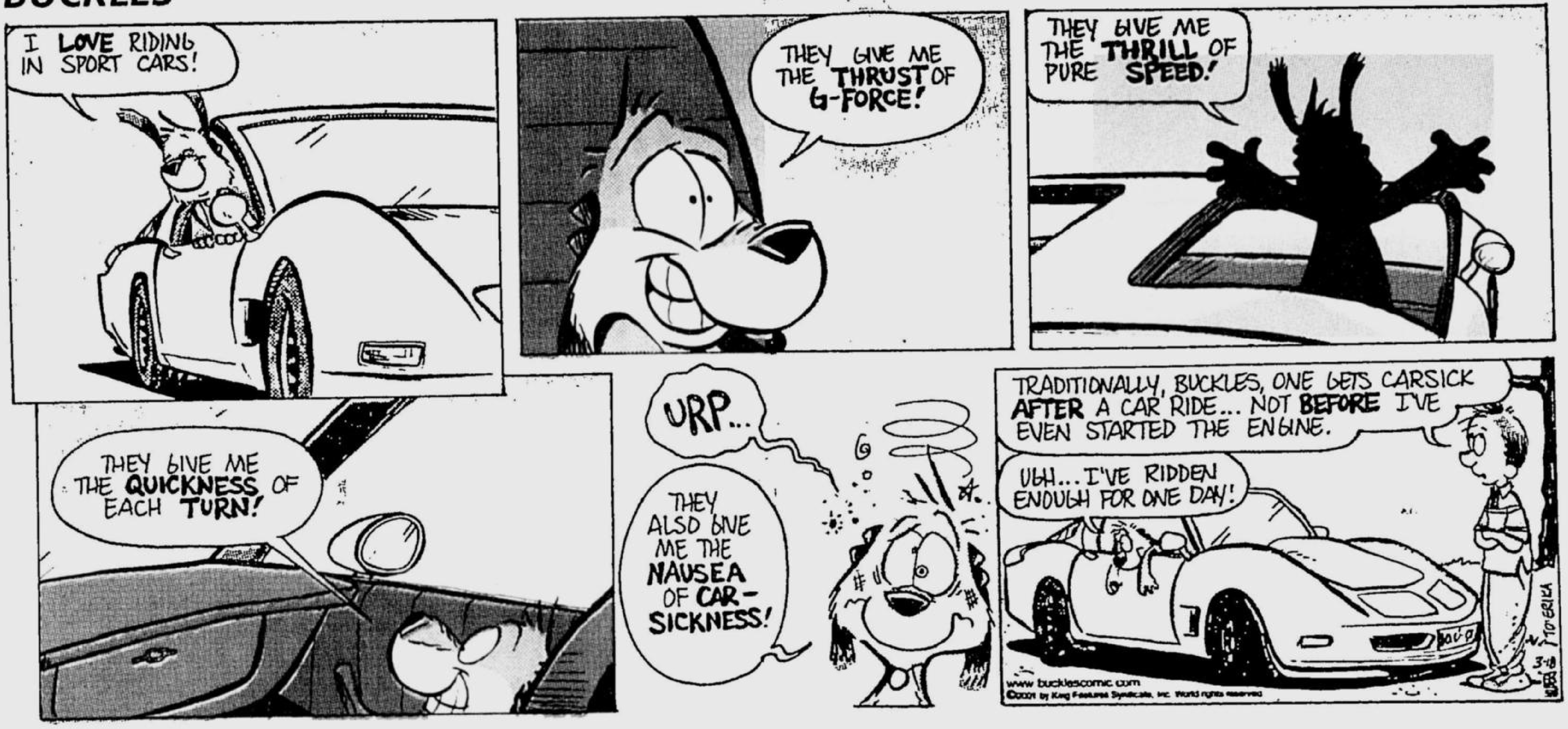
CAN YOU GUESS WHERE THIS IS?

☐ Palawan
☐ Batanes
☐ Baguio

*UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


I LOVE RIDING IN SPORT CARS!
THEY GIVE ME THE THRUST OF G-FORCE!
THEY GIVE ME THE THRILL OF PURE SPEED!
THEY GIVE ME THE QUICKNESS OF EACH TURN!
URP...
THEY ALSO GIVE ME THE NAUSEA OF CAR-SICKNESS!
TRADITIONALLY, BUCKLES, ONE GETS CARSICK AFTER A CAR RIDE... NOT BEFORE I'VE EVEN STARTED THE ENGINE.
UGH... I'VE RIDDEN ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY!
TO ERICA
3-18
GILBERT
www.bucklescomic.com
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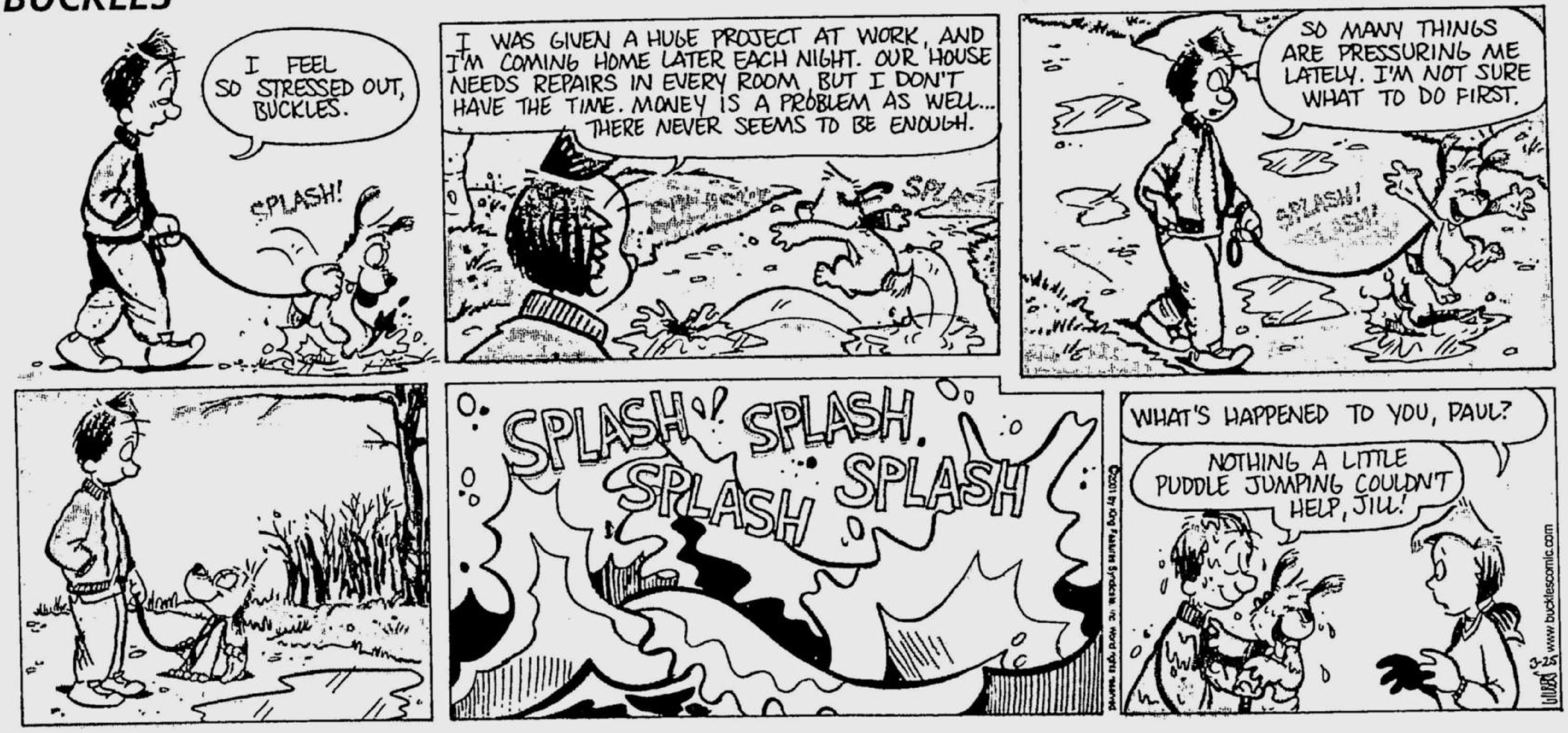
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


I FEEL SO STRESSED OUT, BUCKLES.
SPLASH!
I WAS GIVEN A HUGE PROJECT AT WORK, AND I'M COMING HOME LATER EACH NIGHT. OUR HOUSE NEEDS REPAIRS IN EVERY ROOM BUT I DON'T HAVE THE TIME. MONEY IS A PROBLEM AS WELL... THERE NEVER SEEMS TO BE ENOUGH.
SPLASH
SO MANY THINGS ARE PRESSURING ME LATELY. I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO DO FIRST.
SPLASH!
SPLASH! SPLASH. SPLASH SPLASH
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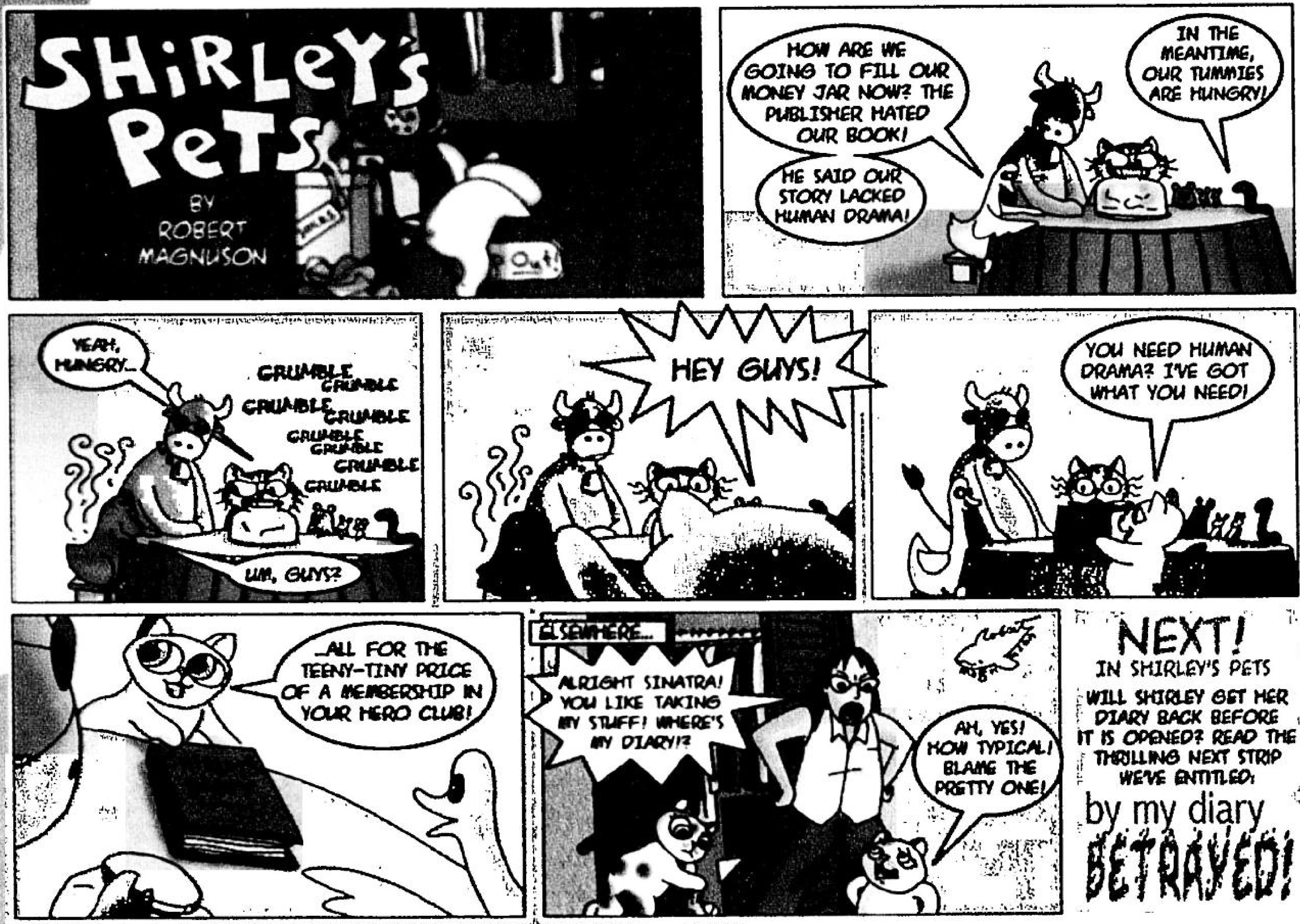
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU, PAUL?
NOTHING A LITTLE PUDDLE JUMPING COULDN'T HELP, JILL!
3-25
GILBERT
www.bucklescomic.com

SHIRLEY'S PETS
SHIRLEY'S PETS

1


SHIRLEY'S Pets
BY ROBERT MAGNUSON
HOW ARE WE GOING TO FILL OUR MONEY JAR NOW? THE PUBLISHER HATED OUR BOOK!
HE SAID OUR STORY LACKED HUMAN DRAMA!
IN THE MEANTIME, OUR TUMMIES ARE HUNGRY!
YEAH, HUNGRY...
GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
UM, GUYS?
HEY GUYS!
YOU NEED HUMAN DRAMA? I'VE GOT WHAT YOU NEED!
...ALL FOR THE TEENY-TINY PRICE OF A MEMBERSHIP IN YOUR HERO CLUB!
ELSEWHERE...
ALRIGHT SINATRA! YOU LIKE TAKING MY STUFF! WHERE'S MY DIARY!?
AH, YES! HOW TYPICAL! BLAME THE PRETTY ONE!

NEXT!
IN SHIRLEY'S PETS
WILL SHIRLEY GET HER DIARY BACK BEFORE IT IS OPENED? READ THE THRILLING NEXT STRIP WE'VE ENTITLED:
by my diary
BETRAYED!

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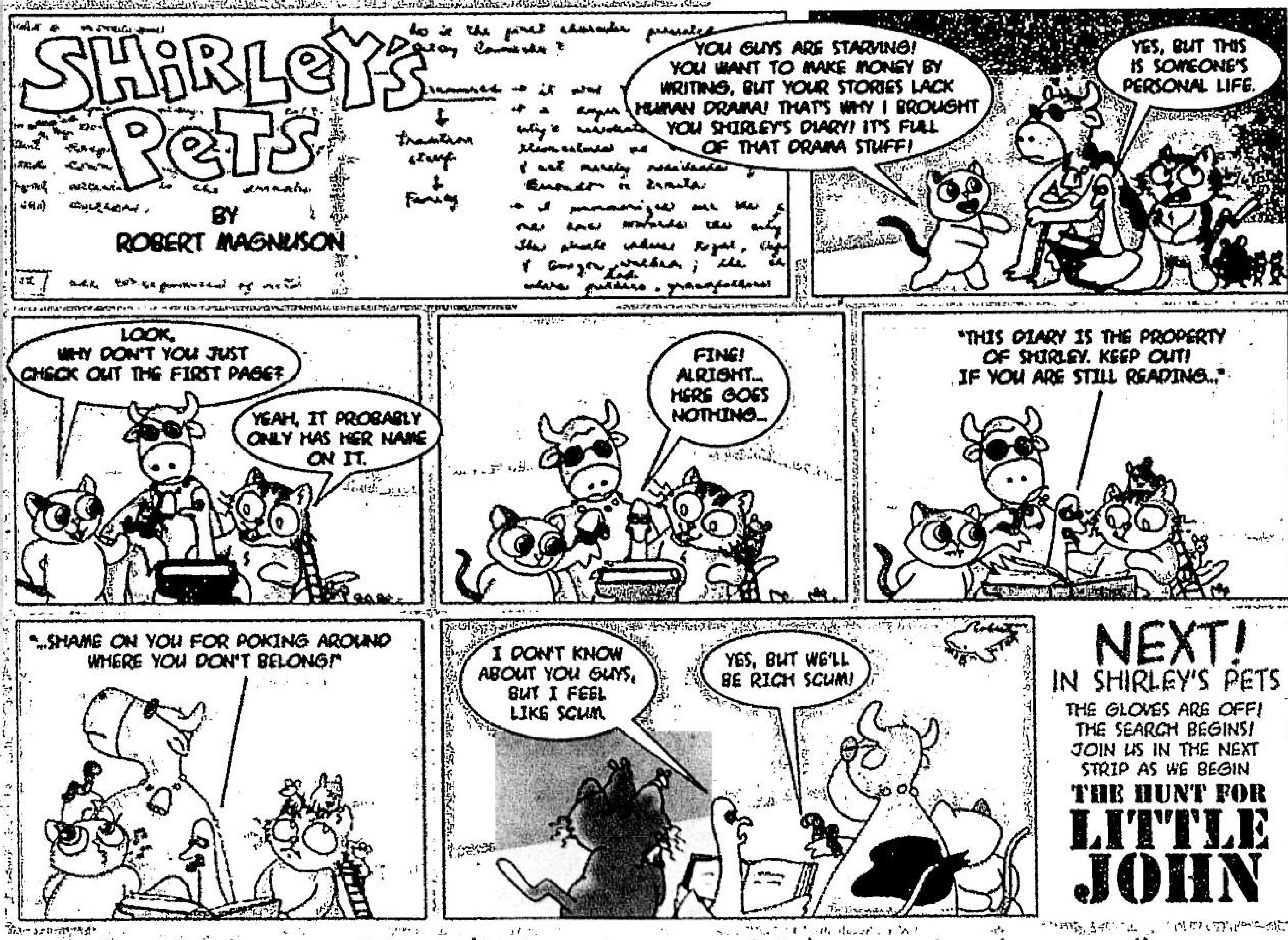
2


SHIRLEY'S PeTS
BY ROBERT MAGNUSON
YOU GUYS ARE STARVING! YOU WANT TO MAKE MONEY BY WRITING, BUT YOUR STORIES LACK HUMAN DRAMA! THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT YOU SHIRLEY'S DIARY! IT'S FULL OF THAT DRAMA STUFF!
YES, BUT THIS IS SOMEONE'S PERSONAL LIFE.
LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU JUST CHECK OUT THE FIRST PAGE?
YEAH, IT PROBABLY ONLY HAS HER NAME ON IT.
FINE! ALRIGHT... HERE GOES NOTHING...
"THIS DIARY IS THE PROPERTY OF SHIRLEY. KEEP OUT! IF YOU ARE STILL READING..."
"...SHAME ON YOU FOR POKING AROUND WHERE YOU DON'T BELONG!"
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU GUYS, BUT I FEEL LIKE SCUM.
YES, BUT WE'LL BE RICH SCUM!

NEXT!
IN SHIRLEY'S PETS
THE GLOVES ARE OFF! THE SEARCH BEGINS! JOIN US IN THE NEXT STRIP AS WE BEGIN
THE HUNT FOR
LITTLE JOHN

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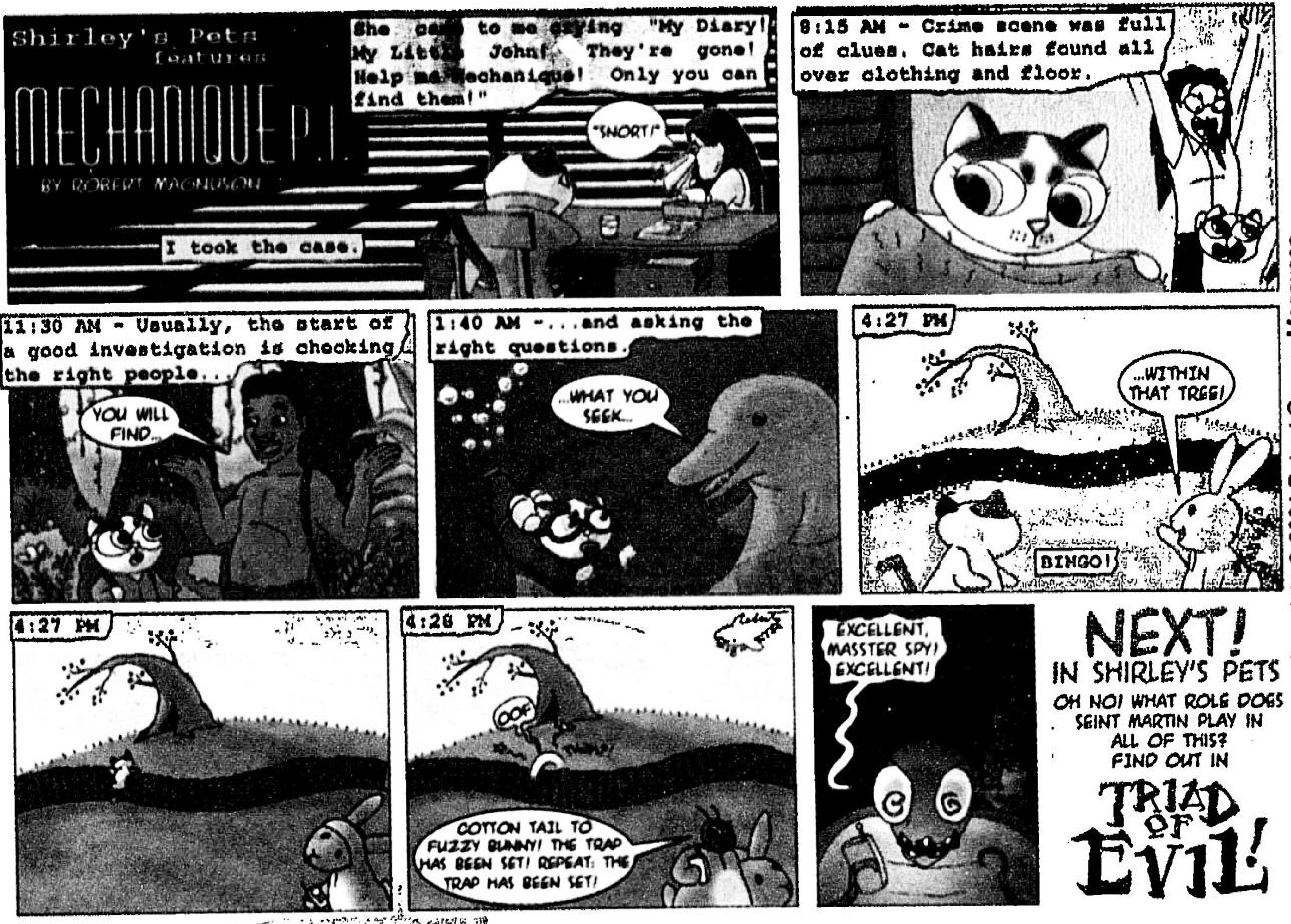
Visit Shirley and her Pets at www.shirleyspets.cheesedip.com

SUMMER BONANZA!

3


Shirley's Pets features
MECHANIQUE P.I.
BY ROBERT MAGNUSON
She came to me crying "My Diary! My Little John! They're gone! Help me Mechanique! Only you can find them!"
"SNORT!"
I took the case.
8:15 AM - Crime scene was full of clues. Cat hairs found all over clothing and floor.
11:30 AM - Usually, the start of a good investigation is checking the right people...
YOU WILL FIND...
1:40 AM - ...and asking the right questions.
...WHAT YOU SEEK...
4:27 PM
...WITHIN THAT TREE!
BINGO!
4:27 PM
4:28 PM
OOF
THWAP!
COTTON TAIL TO FUZZY BUNNY! THE TRAP HAS BEEN SET! REPEAT: THE TRAP HAS BEEN SET!
EXCELLENT, MASSTER SPY! EXCELLENT!
NEXT!
IN SHIRLEY'S PETS
OH NO! WHAT ROLE DOES SEINT MARTIN PLAY IN ALL OF THIS? FIND OUT IN
TRIAD OF EVIL!

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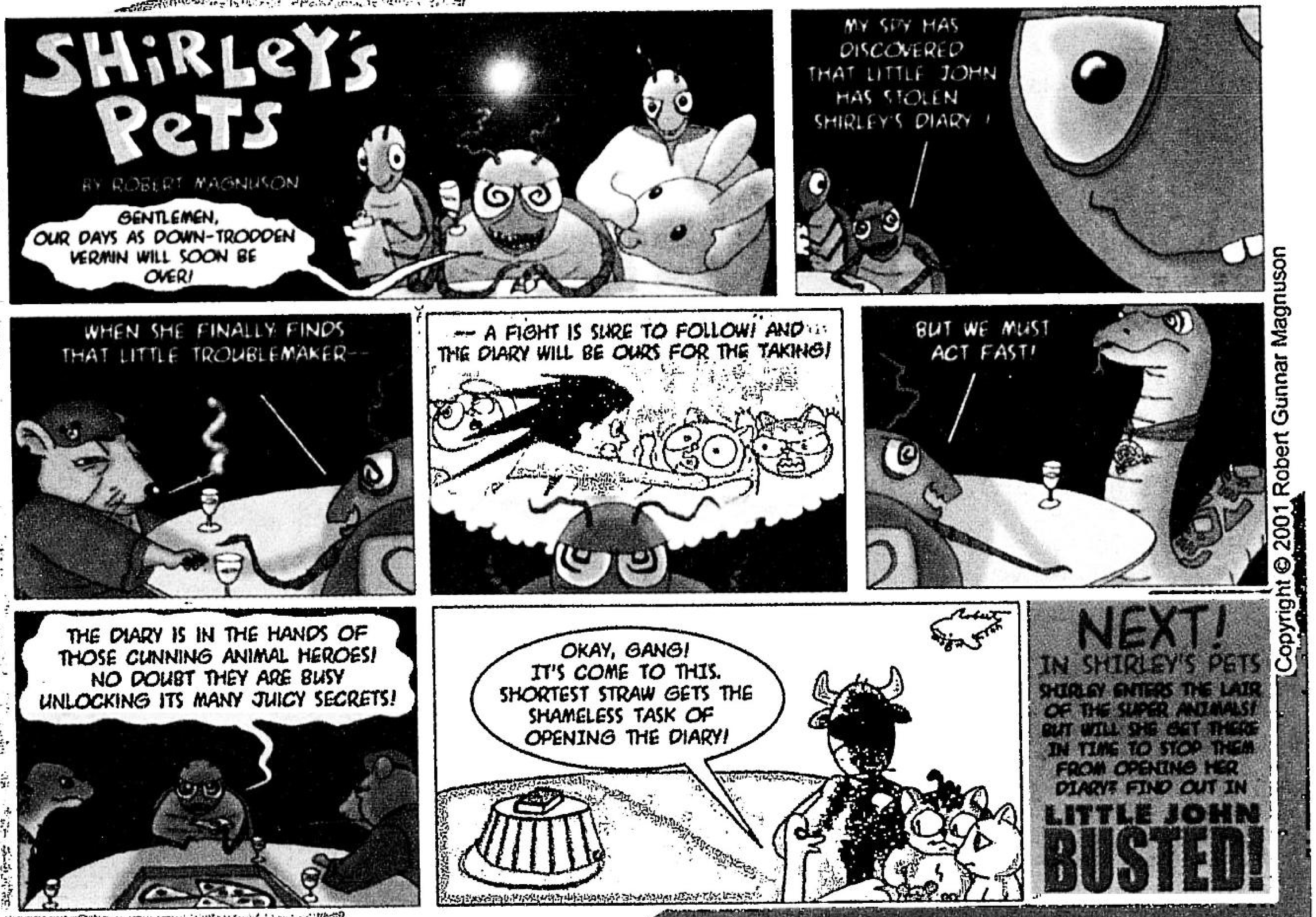
4


SHIRLEY'S Pets
BY ROBERT MAGNUSON
GENTLEMEN, OUR DAYS AS DOWN-TRODDEN VERMIN WILL SOON BE OVER!
MY SPY HAS DISCOVERED THAT LITTLE JOHN HAS STOLEN SHIRLEY'S DIARY!
WHEN SHE FINALLY FINDS THAT LITTLE TROUBLEMAKER--
-- A FIGHT IS SURE TO FOLLOW! AND THE DIARY WILL BE OURS FOR THE TAKING!
BUT WE MUST ACT FAST!
THE DIARY IS IN THE HANDS OF THOSE CUNNING ANIMAL HEROES! NO DOUBT THEY ARE BUSY UNLOCKING ITS MANY JUICY SECRETS!
OKAY, GANG! IT'S COME TO THIS. SHORTEST STRAW GETS THE SHAMELESS TASK OF OPENING THE DIARY!
NEXT!
IN SHIRLEY'S PETS
SHIRLEY ENTERS THE LAIR OF THE SUPER ANIMALS! BUT WILL SHE GET THERE IN TIME TO STOP THEM FROM OPENING HER DIARY? FIND OUT IN
LITTLE JOHN BUSTED!

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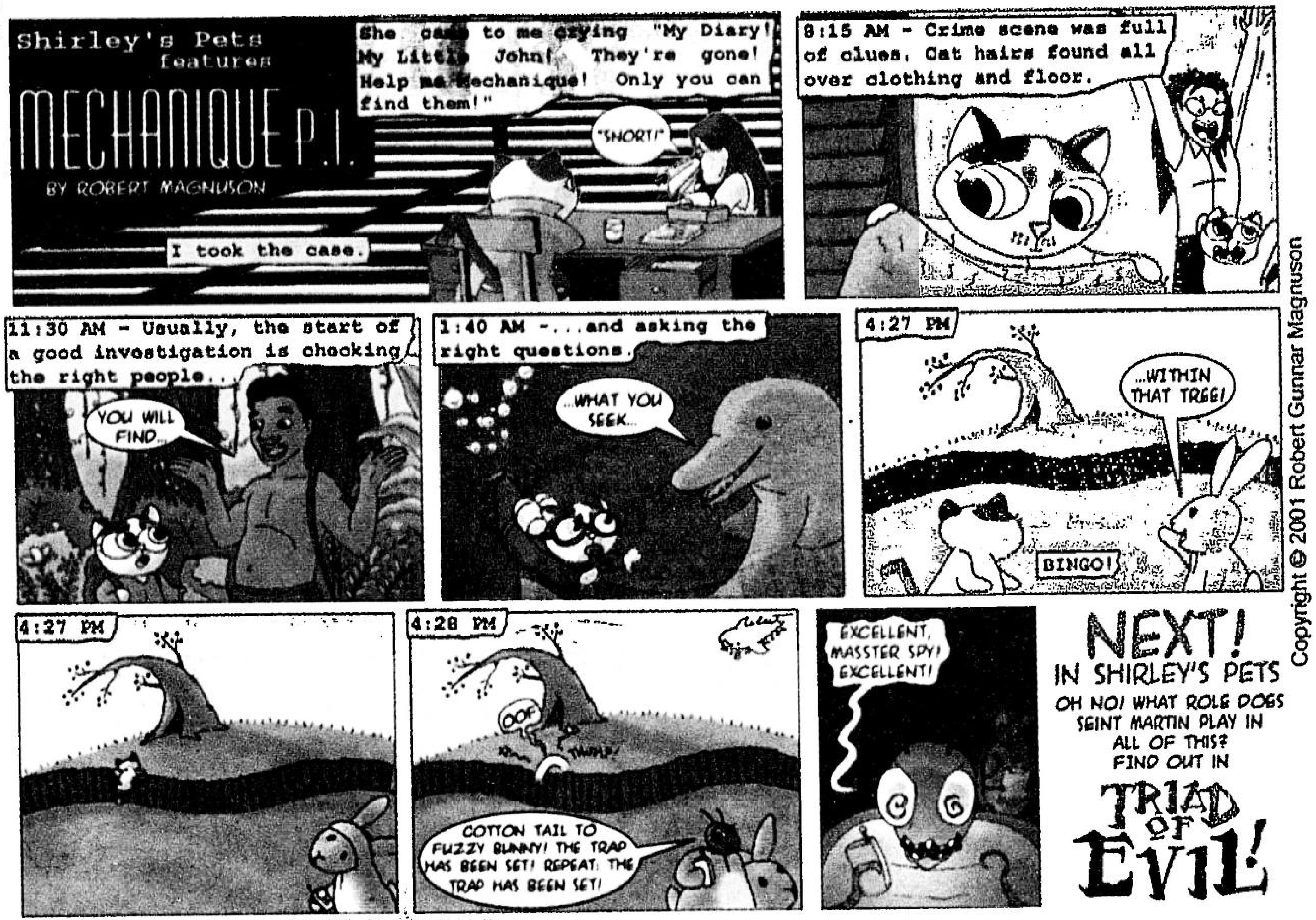
or E-mail them at shifu@animail.net! We'd love to hear from you!

SUMMER BONANZA!

3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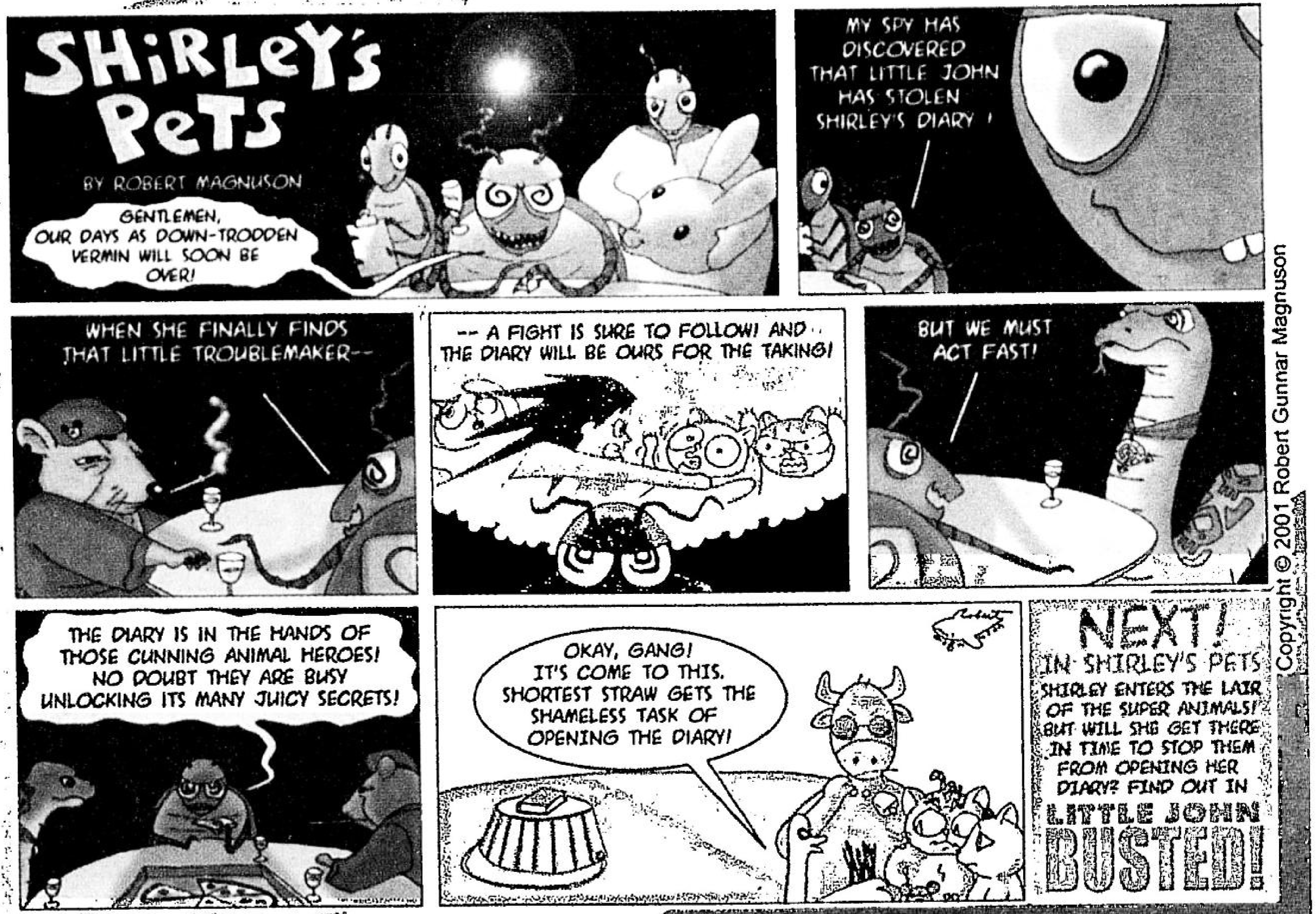
4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